

**HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
REGULARLY SCHEDULED WORKSESSION MEETING  
Monday, August 10, 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 7:30PM 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, Asst. Manager/Zoning Officer

A. APPROVAL OF CURRENT BILLING: Chairman Bennett presented the Bills List dated August 10, 1998, with General Fund payments in the amount of \$27,800.10, State Highway Aid payments in the amount of \$1,738.46, and Escrow Fund payments in the amount of \$7,788.43; for a grand total of all payment in the amount of \$37,326.99.

Motion was made by Supervisor Grasse, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to approve the Bills List dated August 10, 1998.

B. TREASURER'S REPORT: Mr. Horrocks presented the Treasurer's Report with the following balances as of July 31, 1998:

General Fund Checking Account	\$ 145,135.06
Payroll Fund Checking Account	\$ 129.01
General Reserve Fund Checking Account	\$ 453,214.37
Fire Fund Checking Account	\$ 49,090.87
Debt Service Checking Account	\$ 200,302.24
State Highway Aid Checking Account	\$ 227,541.59
Escrow Fund Checking Account	\$ 307,227.65
Capital Projects - Series 1989	\$ 25,661.03
Capital Projects - Series 1994	\$ 98,127.89

With regard to the funding received from Bucks County for the Open Space program, Supervisor Bennington asked when the municipality must provide the 25% funding. Mr. Horrocks replied the funds will be required on a project-by-project basis upon approval.

Motion was made by Supervisor Grasse, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to approve the Treasurer's Report, dated July 31, 1998.

C. WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY REPORT – Mr. Jim Groff, Operations Manager - Mr. Groff was not present.

D. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – Mr. Thomas A. Buzby, Director of Public Works – Mr. Buzby read the Public Works Report for the period of July 5, 1998 through August 1, 1998; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

Mr. Buzby advised the Public Works Department is tentatively scheduled to pave 5.3 miles on Rickert Road next week. The roadway will be closed from intersection to intersection during the paving project.

Mr. Buzby obtained quotes to purchase a new line striper in the approximate amount of \$3,000.00, and has also priced a broom in the approximate amount of \$4,000.00, to attach to the new Trackless machine due to the great amount of dust it causes for the operator. The funds are available in the budget, since there was a change from the purchase of a pick-up truck/roller, to a one ton dump truck, which is less expensive than those two items to purchase.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Grasse, and carried unanimously to authorize the purchase of a new line striper in the approximate amount of \$3,000.00, and the purchase of a new broom in the approximate amount of \$4,000.00, as specified above.

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

Supervisor Bennington commended Chief Egly on the fact that police overtime has decreased significantly over the past year.

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

Supervisor Bennington questioned the proposed pedestrian bike path in the Orchard Glen development. Mr. Horrocks advised the proposed path has nothing to do with the Orchard Glen development, and explained that the Park and Recreation Board, in conjunction with the Open Space Committee, has been considering a trail from the new school in Silverdale up to and potentially linking to the existing trail through Perkasic Borough. The Supervisors had asked Mr. Lippincott to research the use of Keystone Grants, which the Township must fund 100% in advance. If approved by the Keystone Grant Committee, the municipality pays for all the work to be completed and then the

State will reimburse Hilltown Township for 50% of the cost. The estimated cost of this particular trail is \$130,000.00, which must be projected prior to applying for the grant. Discussion took place. The Park and Recreation Board and the Open Space Committee will be meeting this week, and will provide a formal recommendation for the Board of Supervisors review at their August 24, 1998 meeting

G. HILLTOWN FIRE COMPANY REPORT: Mr. Sean Shade read the Hilltown Fire Company Report for the month of July, 1998; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

H. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT – No one was present at this time.

I. SILVERDALE FIRE COMPANY REPORT – Mr. John Gillespie, Chief – Mr. Gillespie read the Silverdale Fire Company Report for the month of July, 1998; a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

Mr. Gillespie mentioned the issue of house numbering and a recent emergency on Minsi Trail, where there was some confusion with street addresses. Supervisor Bennington noted there is not much the Township can do if a property owner does not post their address as required by Ordinance. Chief Egly suggested the Ordinance be revised and reworded so that a fine is levied against a property owner who does not comply. Supervisor Bennington agreed, however he noted that once the matter moves to the District Justice, it appears the fine is never upheld. Further, Mr. Horrocks stated a great deal of time and manpower would have to be committed going door-to-door in order to prove that the correct street address is posted. Mr. Gillespie recently obtained information concerning an automatic light device that may be attached to an outside lamppost. If the switch is flicked twice, the light will blink until it is turned off. These types of devices are used to alert emergency services to a residence requiring attention. The unit costs approximately \$5.00 each. Supervisor Bennington does not believe a person who refuses to post their street address would erect a flashing light for emergency notification. Discussion took place. Supervisor Bennington suggested that another article be placed in the next Township newsletter advising residents of the importance involved in posting their street address for safety reasons.

J. PARK AND RECREATION REPORT: No one was present at this time.

K. CONFIRMED APPOINTMENTS: None.

L. MANAGER'S REPORT – Mr. Bruce G. Horrocks –

1. Mr. Horrocks presented a series of ten escrow releases, eight of which are bank held letters of credit, for the Board's consideration:

Country Roads Phase I	Voucher #6B	\$ 141.01
Country Roads Phase II	Voucher #40	\$ 3,078.45
Country Roads Phase II	Voucher #41	\$ 14,286.12
Country Roads Phases III & IV	Voucher #45	\$ 8,986.95
Country Roads Phases III & IV	Voucher #46	\$ 5,238.81
Country Roads Phases III & IV	Voucher #47	\$ 1,411.49
Tall Oaks Subdivision	Voucher #11	\$ 86,987.70
Long Leaf Estates Phase I	Voucher #14	\$ 3,326.60
Orchard Glen Subdivision	Voucher #37	\$ 725.50
Quiet Acres	Voucher #17B	\$ 294.14

Motion was made by Supervisor Grasse, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to release the ten escrows, as noted above.

2. On August 5, 1998, a permit was received from PennDot to erect a traffic signal at the intersection of Callowhill Road and Hilltown Pike. Mr. Horrocks requested authorization to advertise for bids for the traffic signal.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Grasse, and carried unanimously to authorize the bid for the traffic signal at the intersection of Callowhill Road and Hilltown Pike.

3. Mr. Horrocks is seeking Board authorization to direct the Township Engineer to design a stormwater management plan for the 12.6 acres of Township owned open space directly across the street from this building on Rt. 152. The approximate cost of the plan will be \$4,000.00.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Grasse, and carried unanimously to authorize the Township Engineer to design a stormwater management plan for the 12.6 acres of Township owned open space across the street from the municipal building on Rt. 152.

4. Mr. Horrocks advised the Township recently advertised for the position of a full-time Code Enforcement Officer, with two individuals responding. One of those individuals is Mr. Richard Heilman, who the Township is presently utilizing as part-time Code Enforcement services through Perkasio Borough. Mr. Horrocks requested that the Board appoint Mr. Richard Heilman to the position of full-time Code Enforcement Officer of Hilltown Township, at a salary of \$45,000.00 per year.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Grasse, and carried unanimously to appoint Mr. Richard Heilman to the position of full-time Code Enforcement Officer of Hilltown Township, at a salary of \$45,000.00 per year.

Mr. Heilman will begin full-time employment with Hilltown Township on Monday, August 17, 1998.

M. CORRESPONDENCE: None.

N. MYLARS FOR SIGNATURE: None.

O. PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Mr. John Perritt, president of the Silverdale Fire Company, noted the amount of development taking place in the Silverdale coverage area by Heritage Building Group. Even though Mr. Perritt has personally endorsed the idea of volunteerism for developers to provide some type of contribution to the servicing fire company, Heritage has not come forward with any kind of donation for any of their developments. Mr. Perritt suggested the Supervisors research the possibility of developer impact fees. Several municipalities in Bucks County, including neighboring Bedminster Township, have begun implementation of developer impact fees. Mr. Perritt commented impact fees collected in other communities are going directly to the fire companies. Supervisor Bennington reminded Mr. Perritt that impact fees are illegal. Transportation fees may be required, however those funds must then be used to develop the roads surrounding the specific development. To Mr. Horrocks' knowledge, there are two types of Impact Fees that are legal, including transportation fees, which Supervisor Bennington mentioned, as well as recreation impact fees. There may be other "in lieu of" fees that are built into Ordinances that give municipalities the option of collecting fees. Mr. Horrocks was directed by the Board to contact Bedminster Township concerning this issue. Discussion took place.

P. SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS:

1. By hiring Mr. Heilman as a full-time Code Enforcement Officer, Supervisor Bennington commented the Township is saving money since we will no longer be paying for an outside consultant on a part-time basis only.

2. Supervisor Bennington noted that the Congress and the Senate were considering allowing developers to go directly to Federal Courts to sue municipalities; however, by a vote of 52 to 42, the Senate voted against that proposal.


3. Supervisor Bennington is extremely concerned about frivolous lawsuits. In a neighboring municipality, they effectively counter sued a frivolous lawsuit contestee and actually won approximately \$1.5 million dollars. If in the future, a frivolous lawsuit is pending against Hilltown Township, Supervisor Bennington wished to make it clear

that he will push the issue to counter sue so that the taxpayers of Hilltown do not waste time and money.

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

R. ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Grasse, and carried unanimously, the August 10, 1998 Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors Worksession meeting was adjourned at 8:35PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Lynda Seimes

Township Secretary

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