

**HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULARLY SCHEDULED WORKSESSION MEETING
Monday, November 10, 1997
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 7:35PM and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Also present were: Kenneth B. Bennington, Vice-Chairman
Jack C. Fox, Supervisor
Bruce G. Horrocks, Township Manager
Thomas A. Buzby, Director of Public Works
George C. Egly, Jr., Chief of Police
Gregory J. Lippincott, Assistant Manager/Zoning Officer

Chairman Bennett announced the Board of Supervisors, Township Solicitor, Township Manager, and Supervisor Elcct, Charles Grasse, met in Executive Session prior to this meeting in order to discuss legal matters.

A. TREASURER'S REPORT - Mr. Bruce G. Horrocks, Township Manager - Mr. Horrocks presented the Treasurer's Report with the following balances as of October 31, 1997:

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|------------------------------------|---------------|
| General Fund Checking Account | \$ 387,075.36 |
| Payroll Fund Checking Account | \$ 87.91 |
| Fire Fund Checking Account | \$ 52,348.43 |
| Dcbt Service Checking Account | \$ 169,749.73 |
| State Highway Aid Checking Account | \$ 107,065.85 |
| Escrow Fund Checking Account | \$ 258,061.10 |
| Capital Projects - Series 1989 | \$ 24,752.45 |
| Capital Projects - Series 1994 | \$ 94,658.67 |

Motion was made by Supervisor Fox, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to approve the Treasurer's Report dated October 31, 1997, subject to audit.

B. APPROVAL OF CURRENT BILLING: Chairman Bennett presented the Bills List dated November 11, 1997, with General Fund payments in the amount of \$126,852.99, Debt Service payments in the amount of \$1,000.00, State Highway Aid payments in the amount of \$5,241.16, and Escrow fund payments in the amount of \$127.49; for a grand total of all funds in the amount of \$133,221.64.

Motion was made by Supervisor Fox, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to approve the Bills List dated November 11, 1997, subject to audit.

C. WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY REPORT - Mr. James Groff, Operations Manager - Mr. Groff read the Authority Report for the month of October, 1997, a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

Mr. Groff explained the Rt. 152 waterline construction itself is virtually complete. Final trench restoration is set for Monday, November 17, 1997. When Mr. Groff returned from vacation, he was not pleased with the way trench restoration was handled. Mr. Groff voiced his complaints to the contractor for approximately two hours last Friday, and then erected several "Uneven Pavement" signs that afternoon.

Supervisor Bennington prefaced his remarks by stating that he holds Mr. Groff in very high regard and believes that he is doing a tremendous job, however he feels someone "dropped the ball" with this project. Supervisor Bennington personally travels Rt. 152 each day and commented that the road is a disgrace. Supervisor Bennington has heard numerous complaints about the condition of Rt. 152, which he happens to agree with, and stated that something must be done as soon as possible to remedy the situation. Mr. Groff apologized, and advised the matter will be addressed at the Water and Sewer Authority meeting to be held this Wednesday evening. Mr. Groff anticipates that complete restoration of Rt. 152 should be accomplished by November 22, 1997. Supervisor Bennington noted that the Township is ultimately responsible if an accident should occur due to the condition of Rt. 152, even though this is an Authority project.

Chairman Bennett also received a great many complaints about Rt. 152 while working the polls on election day. Chairman Bennett stated traveling south on Rt. 152, especially after dark, is an extremely dangerous situation due to the large potholes at the edge of the roadway.

D. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT - Mr. Thomas A. Buzby, Director of Public Works - Mr. Buzby read the Public Works Report for the period of September 28 through October 25, 1997, a copy of which is on file at the Township office. Mr. Buzby advised leaf pick-up began today on Township roads only.

E. POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT - Chief George C. Egly, Jr. - Chief Egly read the Police Report for the month of October, 1997, a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

F. ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT - Mr. Gregory J. Lippincott, Zoning Officer - Mr. Lippincott read the Zoning Report for the month of October, 1997, a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

G.. SILVERDALE FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT - Mr. John Gillespie - Mr. Gillespie read the Silverdale Fire Company Report for the month of October, 1997, a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

Mr. John Perritt, president of the Silverdale Fire Company, was very disappointed that the referendum question concerning raising the millage of the fire tax did not pass. Mr. Perritt believes it would have been very helpful to all fire companies if it had passed. Supervisor Fox was also disappointed in the defeat of the referendum question, and stated that he had apparently been under the wrong impression that the fire companies needed funding. As a matter of fact, Supervisor Fox discovered that one fire company had several of its members vocally opposed to the referendum to raise the fire tax. Further, many of the fire chiefs, for their own reasons, did not wish to get involved in campaigning for the possible fire tax increase. Mr. Perritt feels it is important to realize that given the age of the equipment and the cost of training fire personnel, more funding will be needed in the future. Supervisor Bennington commented the 3 mill fire tax was established to pick up the slack of contributions from Township residents. However, Supervisor Bennington has heard numerous comments from Township residents that they are tired of receiving donation requests from the various fire companies because they already pay 3 mills of fire tax. Discussion took place. Further, Supervisor Bennington feels Hilltown residents have spoken rather loudly, by defeating the open space referendum and by defeating the fire tax increase referendum, because they do not want to increase taxes in Hilltown Township. Supervisor Bennington suggested that the residents of Hilltown attend school board meetings, which is where the bulk of the tax increases come from.

With regard to funding for the Silverdale Fire Company, Mr. Perritt has tallied responses to their latest fund drive with a 40% response from Silverdale Borough residents, and a 39% response from Hilltown Township residents. From 1994, the Silverdale Fire Company has gone from \$17,344.00 to today's current total of approximately \$17,800.00 as of this date. Obviously, Mr. Perritt believes the fire company must improve their relationship with the citizenry for a better fund drive response. Even though Silverdale Borough does not have a 2 mill Fire Tax, Mr. Perritt advised they did increase their donation proportionately this year by approximately \$1,000.00, which would equal 2 mills. Mr. Perritt believes the fire companies must consider how they can increase funds, both through fundraising and through government donations.

H. HILLTOWN FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT - Mr. Robert Grunmeier - Mr. Grunmeier read the Hilltown Fire Company Report for the month of October, 1997, a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

I. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR - Mr. Grunmeier read the Emergency Management Report for the month of October, 1997, a copy of which is on file at the Township office.

Chairman Bennett asked Mr. Grunmeier for his opinion of the defeat of the fire tax referendum question. Mr. Grunmeier replied that all seven fire company chiefs met and decided not to support or to campaign against this referendum question, since it was not instigated by the fire companies.

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

K. CONFIRMED APPOINTMENTS/PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

L. MANAGER'S REPORT - Mr. Bruce G. Horrocks, Township Manager -

1. Mr. Horrocks presented a series of eleven escrow releases, five of which are cash held by the Township, for the Board's authorization:

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| Country Roads Phases III & IV | Voucher #34 | \$ 1,925.37 |
| Hilltown Hunt | Voucher #32 | \$ 85,974.39 |
| Hilltown Hunt | Voucher #33 | \$ 8,597.44 |
| Hilltown Hunt | Voucher #34 | \$ 672.33 |
| Keystone Estates Subdivision | Voucher #06 | \$ 278.59 |
| Orchard Glen Subdivision | Voucher #22 | \$ 2,860.74 |
| Quiet Acres | Voucher #7B | \$ 269.59 |
| Quiet Acres | Voucher #8B | \$ 11,405.25 |
| Quiet Acres | Voucher #9B | \$ 11,090.36 |
| Schade Tract | Voucher #13A | \$ 327.72 |
| Waste Management of Indian Valley | Voucher #13 | \$ 205.47 |

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to approve the release of the eleven escrows as noted above.

2. Mr. Horrocks supplied the Board with half of the proposed 1998 Budget of revenue totals only. By the end of this week, Mr. Horrocks believes expenditures will be 95% complete.

M. CORRESPONDENCE - None.

N. LINENS FOR SIGNATURE: None.

O. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

P. SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS:

1. Supervisor Bennington asked if the Water Ordinance and Tower Ordinance must be advertised. Mr. Horrocks replied that has been authorized in a previous motion.

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

R. ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion by Supervisor Fox, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously, the November 10, 1997 Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors Meeting was adjourned at 8:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Lynda Seimes
Township Secretary

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