

**HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULARLY SCHEDULED WORKSESSION MEETING
Monday, May 13, 1996
7:30PM**

The Worksession meeting of the Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman William H. Bennett, Jr. at 7:40PM 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, Chief of Police
Warren L. Nace, Zoning Officer

Chairman Bennett announced the Board of Supervisors and the Township Manager met in Executive Session prior to this meeting in order to discuss labor and personnel issues.

A. APPROVAL OF CURRENT BILLING: Chairman Bennett presented the Bills List, dated May 13, 1996 with General Fund payments in the amount of \$131,648.19, State Highway Aid payments in the amount of \$43,800.08, and Escrow Fund payments in the amount of \$105.60; for a grand total of all funds in the amount of \$175,553.87.

Supervisor Fox questioned the bill for building inspection fees in the amount of \$6,895.28. Mr. Horrocks replied that bill was for the months of March and April.

Chairman Bennett questioned the bill for prescription services in the amount of \$341.99. Mr. Horrocks noted that fee was for one prescription, however now that the employees are on the Blue Cross/Blue Shield medical coverage, the Township will no longer have a prescription plan. Chairman Bennett asked for an explanation of the bill from Dimmig Gun Shop in the amount of \$95.00. Chief Egly replied these items are for flashlight holsters for the officer's guns. Chairman Bennett noted the \$75.00 charge from J.H. Freed for pumping of the tank, and asked how soon this building will be connected to public sewer. Mr. Horrocks believes the municipal building will be connected to public water and sewer within two months.

Motion was made by Supervisor Fox, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to approve the Bills List dated May 13, 1996, subject to audit.

B. HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY REPORT - Mr. Chuck Stockert - In the absence of Mr. Groff, Mr. Chuck Stockert who is also an Authority employee, read the report for the month of April, 1996, which is on file at the Township office.

C. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT - Mr. Buzby read the Public Works Report for the period of March 31, 1996 through April 27, 1996, which is on file at the Township office.

Chairman Bennett feels the Public Works Department is doing a fine job on the repair of Township roadways.

Mr. Buzby met with Mr. Russek from the Township Engineer's office concerning a problem on Township Line Road. Mr. Buzby explained that during the storm in January, the stream was clogged at one of it's bends and the water is now flowing straight out into the roadway. This flow has caused considerable damage to Township Line Road. Mr. Wynn is in the process of obtaining the proper permits and permission from a property owner to rectify the situation. Mr. Buzby believes a biologist may have to inspect the site to determine whether or not the area is considered wetlands, and that report will determine the cost of the project. If the area is deemed as wetlands, Mr. Buzby noted it will be an expensive project because mats must be installed. If the area is not deemed as wetlands, the material dug from the stream bed can be used to fill in the area that washed out.

Supervisor Bennington noted that when he drives past the Hilltown Civic Park, Mr. Buzby is often working on the ballfield, on his own time. Supervisor Bennington sincerely appreciates Mr. Buzby's efforts. The Board was in agreement.

D. POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT - Chief Egly read the Police Report for the month of April, 1996 which is on file at the Township office.

Chief Egly advised this has been a very busy and stressful time for the Police Department. There was a very serious accident on Blue School Road last Friday. That same night, a man was killed in a hit and run accident on Rt. 152. This morning there was an accident in Silverdale; at noon today there was a suicide in the Township, and there was another serious accident late this afternoon at Broad Street and Callowhill Road.

With regard to both police grants, paperwork has been completed and funds should be received by the Township in the near future.

Chairman Bennett noted police overtime is up quite a bit versus the figures from a year ago. Chief Egly explained that increase is due to the grant work in the Green Meadows/Meadow Glen area.

Now that the traffic signal at the intersection of Diamond Street and Rt. 113 is operational, Chairman Bennett wondered if the flashing caution light that had previously been erected on Diamond Street near that intersection should be utilized at another location. Chairman Bennett mentioned the dangerous intersections

of Broad Street and Callowhill Road, Green Street and Fairhill Road, and Callowhill Road and Hilltown Pike. Chief Egly does not necessarily feel the flashing caution light should remain on Diamond Street, however he noted that signal is really only effective at intersections that have a history of accidents occurring from one particular direction. Chief Egly commented the Broad Street and Callowhill Road intersection is experiencing accidents from all directions, and feels an overhead flashing signal for all four directions might be best for that particular intersection. Chief Egly believes that the flashing caution light from Diamond Street might be better utilized at the intersection of Upper Stump and Upper Church Roads. Chairman Bennett suggested that Chief Egly prioritize the most dangerous intersections in Hilltown Township for the Board's review. Discussion took place concerning the need for traffic control devices at various intersections. Of all the dangerous intersections in the Township, Supervisor Bennington asked Chief Egly where he would suggest the next traffic signal be installed. Chief Egly replied it would be a tie between Callowhill Road and Hilltown Pike, or Callowhill Road and Rt. 113.

Supervisor Fox wondered if the twelve hour shifts for police officers has any bearing on the increase of police overtime. Chief Egly is not certain, but he has been experiencing some administrative difficulties with the twelve hour shifts. The officers, however, are very pleased with the new shifts.

E. ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT - Mr. Nace read the Zoning Report for the month of April, 1996 which is on file at the Township office.

Mr. Nace advised a resident who is about to put his house on the market, has an apartment and a cottage on his property. Mr. Nace previously presented information to the Board from PP&L with regard to when the electric meters were installed on the property. The resident is requesting verification from the Township stating that the property is a legal non-conforming parcel. Mr. Fox asked how long the resident has lived at the site. Mr. Nace replied Mr. Freed has lived on the site since the late 1950's. The apartment and cottage existed when he purchased the property. Supervisor Bennington asked Mr. Horrocks if he is satisfied that Mr. Freed provided all the necessary documentation and information as required. Mr. Horrocks replied it would depend upon the recommendation of the Zoning Officer. Having spoken with Mr. Freed on several occasions, Mr. Nace recommended that his request be granted. Supervisor Fox asked if the tenants are registered to pay taxes in Hilltown Township. Mr. Nace is not certain, however he will research it.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to allow Mr. Freed's property to

remain as a legal non-conforming use.

F. PARK AND RECREATION REPORT - Mr. Lupinacci read the Park and Recreation Report for the month of April 1996, which is on file at the Township office.

With regard to the recent request by Deep Run for waiver of user fees, a meeting was held with Mr. Horrocks, Mr. Smith, Mr. Tyson, Mr. Keim, and Mr. Lupinacci last week. The discussion revolved around Deep Run's request for field use during the baseball season only. Deep Run hopes to play their Connie Mack season at the park starting in June, which includes 38 scheduled games. At the meeting, discussion took place concerning maintenance of the park and the cost to the Township. Deep Run agreed to rake the areas surrounding the pitcher's mound and home plate following each game. It was also emphasized to Deep Run that the fields at the Civic Park were intended for official games, not for practice sessions. All those attending the meeting were agreeable, however, to allowing Deep Run the courtesy of some practice sessions on the field prior to the beginning of their season. Deep Run is agreeable to paying a \$9.00 per event user fee (or a 70% reduction per event user fee) as was suggested by Supervisor Bennington at the last meeting. Therefore, for the 1996 season, Deep Run will be paying a fee of \$342.00 which is a substantial reduction. Deep Run has also requested that a sign be placed on the outfield fence with their logo on it. Supervisor Fox asked who will pay for the sign. Mr. Lupinacci replied the Township will pay for the sign at a cost of approximately \$125.00.

Concerning post-game maintenance, Chairman Bennett asked if Deep Run players currently do any on their own fields. Mr. Lupinacci stated the coaches encourage players to do their fair share of maintenance to the fields following every event at the Deep Run facility. Mr. Smith had indicated to Mr. Horrocks that he would like to have a key for the former concession stand where some of the maintenance equipment is stored. Chairman Bennett believes it is important for one or more members of the Park and Recreation Board to see that the proper maintenance is accomplished following every game. Further, Chairman Bennett noted this arrangement would only be for the 1996 season, and if Deep Run does not live up to their part of the stipulation, it will not continue in future years. Supervisor Fox asked if the Park and Recreation Board has given any consideration to the fact that other non-profit teams from Hilltown Township may ask for the same type of consideration that Deep Run has requested. Mr. Lupinacci replied it was addressed when the user fee concept was first discussed, and every attempt was made to make it available for any Hilltown based organization, provided they made a request for a reduction of fees.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to accept the agreement between the Park and Recreation Board and Deep Run Valley Sports Association for one year use of the Hilltown Civic Field baseball field at the fee as specified above. Chairman Bennett added the Township should receive payment of \$342.00 during the 1996 calendar year.

In other matters, Mr. Lupinacci presented a tentative schedule of events for Community Day which is planned for September 14, 1996.

G. HILLTOWN FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT - In Mr. Devlin's absence, Mr. Shawn Shade read the Hilltown Fire Report for the month of April, 1996 which is on file at the Township office.

On May 23, 1996, members of the Hilltown Fire Company will be touring the Wal-Mart store at the Hilltown Crossings Shopping Center in order to become familiar with the lay-out of the building.

Mr. Shade mentioned a preemption request for the location of Hilltown Pike and Rt. 309. Six units were purchased for Hilltown Fire Company's apparatus to control the traffic signals which were previously preempted at Orvilla Road and Rt. 309 at Hilltown Crossings Shopping Center. Mr. Shade is aware that Hilltown Township and Hatfield Township have requested a preemption installation of the traffic signal at Unionville Pike and Rt. 309 as well. Mr. Shade does not see the point of having preemption devices on all the traffic signals along Rt. 309 if the intersection of Hilltown Pike and Rt. 309 does not contain preemption devices. The cost of a preemption device for this intersection would be \$4,650.00. Chairman Bennett advised the Board was only made aware of this request a few days ago, and he is not prepared to make any decision tonight.

Discussion took place concerning how the preemption device operates and how it affects the fire company's response.

H. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT - Mr. Shade advised the Emergency Management Coordinator's Report for the month of April, 1996 will be provided by Mr. Devlin next month.

I. SILVERDALE FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT - Mr. Stockert read the Silverdale Fire Report for the month of April, 1996 which is on file at the Township office.

Chairman Bennett congratulated Mr. Stockert on the written report submitted at the last meeting by the Silverdale Fire Department, noting it was very thorough and professional.

Mr. Stockert commented the Silverdale Fire Company would be very happy to see preemption devices placed on every traffic signal in the entire Township. The Silverdale Fire Company experiences the same difficulty when trying to access Rt. 113 from their station due to the traffic light at Rt. 152 and Rt. 113. Even though the initial cost of installation can be expensive, Mr. Stockert feels the preemption system will certainly save lives and property. Mr. Shade noted the only traffic signal with preemption devices in Hilltown Township at present is the one at Hilltown Crossings. Discussion took place concerning the high cost of installation of these preemption devices.

Mr. Stockert wished to thank the volunteers of the Silverdale Fire Company who respond to the traffic accidents at some of the most dangerous intersections in Hilltown Township.

Mr. Stockert invited the Supervisors and Mr. Horrocks to attend a demonstration of the rescue tools and the Q.R.S. truck on Saturday, June 1, 1996 at 11:00AM at the Silverdale Fire Company.

Mr. Stockert advised the Intelligencer Newspaper has generously donated a 1988 four wheel drive Chevy Suburban that the fire company will be restoring for use as a Q.R.S. truck.

Mr. Stockert explained Bucks County is changing the radio frequencies for fire companies, which will be phased in over the next five years. These radios will cost \$3,000.00 each and there will be no financial assistance available from the County. Silverdale Fire Company must replace 21 radios at \$3,000.00 each which will be very costly for their department.

J. CONFIRMED APPOINTMENTS: None.

K. MANAGER'S REPORT - Mr. Bruce G. Horrocks -

1. Mr. Horrocks presented Bid #96-1 for two seasonal storage buildings which was opened on Friday, May 10, 1996 at 4:00PM. One bid was received from Morton Buildings Inc. There was a second bid, however it was received after 4:00PM. The Supervisors feel the bid should be re-advertised since only one was received.

Motion was made by Supervisor Fox, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to re-advertise Bid #96-1 for two seasonal storage buildings.

2. Mr. Horrocks presented eight escrow releases for the Board's consideration, seven of which are bank held letters of credit and one of which is cash held by the Township:

Bricks Villa	Voucher #17	\$ 682.69
Country Roads Phase II	Voucher #23	\$ 16,590.83
Country Roads Phase II	Voucher #24	\$ 564.77
Hilltown Crossings	Voucher #15	\$ 66,698.10
Hilltown Crossings	Voucher #16	\$ 1,612.92
Hilltown Hunt	Voucher #14	\$ 2,595.45
Schade Tract Subdivision	Voucher #2A	\$ 57.60
Spur Road Associates (Fretz)	Voucher #1A	\$ 107.08

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

3. After the meeting, signatures by the Supervisors are required for the following linens:

- Toth-Bumgardner-Azarik Subdivision
- St. Philip's Orthodox Church Land Development
- Philadelphia Glider Council.

Also, the following linens must be re-dated after this meeting:

- Myers Lot Line Change
- Blosser Subdivision

4. A request was received from Mr. Joe Phillips, chairman of the Planning Commission, to appoint a committee to deal with the Act 209 Traffic Study. Eight residents indicated interest in serving on this committee. Mr. Horrocks spoke with the Township Solicitor late this afternoon because he recalls that there are specific requirements by the Municipalities Planning Code which must be strictly adhered to when appointing such a committee. Supervisor Fox believes that a majority of the committee must be involved in the building, realtor, or architect industry. The Supervisors will review the list of interested applicants as presented by Mr. Phillips and will make appointments at the next meeting.

L. CORRESPONDENCE: None.

M. RESIDENT'S COMMENTS:

1. Chief Egly is a member of the Police Chief's Advisory Board Radio Committee. At their last committee meeting, there were no specifications drawn up, though the high cost was discussed. When this new radio system goes into effect, Chief Egly explained each mobile unit for the police department will cost \$3,500.00, and each portable unit will cost \$2,800.00. Chief Egly is very concerned about the high cost of this change. The committee intends to approach the County Commissioners to float a bond with a five year repayment period to cover these costs. Supervisor Fox asked how many units must be replaced in the Police Department.

Chief Egly replied there are twelve mobile units and sixteen portable units to be replaced. Supervisor Fox asked how long it has been since the radios were replaced. Chief Egly believes the last change to a 500 megahertz system was approximately 10 years ago. Before that, the system was 155 megahertz. Supervisor Bennington asked what the benefit to Hilltown Township will be with this change. The only difference Chief Egly is aware of is that people with monitors will not be able to hear anything. Chief Egly noted the trunking system is a line system. For instance, if there are 24 frequencies, Chief Egly may be transmitting back to the County on frequency #1, and they may be answering him on frequency #24. Then when Chief Egly transmits again, he may be on frequency #3 and the County may be on frequency #17. In other words, each transmission finds the next available line for use. At present, there are two frequencies, one out and one in. It seems to Supervisor Bennington that this new system will be more efficient than what is available at present. To a certain degree, Chief Egly agreed.

Chief Egly noted there are difficulties transmitting from the Hilltown Crossings Shopping Center, specifically at the Wal-Mart store. Other trouble spots include Township Line Road near Chalfont Road, portions of Rt. 152, and the intersection of Mill Road and Rt. 309. Supervisor Bennington suggested the Hilltown Fire Company test their transmission from the Wal-Mart when they have their walk through on May 23rd.

Mr. John Perritt of Silverdale Fire Company stated that another consideration for Hilltown Township and the Fire Prevention Bureau is that Silverdale Fire Company currently has seven Montgomery County radios. Montgomery County is on their own frequency and will also be changing radios themselves. Therefore, in addition to their own radios, the fire companies will have to purchase radios for Montgomery County's frequencies as well.

N. SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS: None.

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

P. ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion by Supervisor Fox, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously, the May 13, 1996 Worksession meeting of the Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors was adjourned at 9:25PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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