

**HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WORKSESSION MEETING
Monday, October 9, 1995
7:30PM**

The Worksession meeting of the Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors of October 9, 1995 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
Warren L. Nace, Zoning Officer

A. APPROVAL OF CURRENT BILLING: Chairman Bennett presented the Bills List dated October 10, 1995 with General Fund payments in the amount of \$143,711.35, State Highway Aid payments in the amount of \$375.00, and Escrow Fund payments in the amount of \$15,512.83, for a grand total of all funds in the amount of \$159,599.18.

Supervisor Bennington questioned the bill from Streetgard, Inc. in the amount of \$1,382.50. Mr. Horrocks advised that bill was to purchase upgraded software for the police department.

Motion was made by Supervisor Fox, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to approve the Bills List, dated October 10, 1995, subject to audit.

B. HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY REPORT - Mr. Jim Groff, Operations Manager - Mr. Groff read the Authority Report for the month of September, 1995, which is on file at the Township office.

C. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT - Mr. Thomas A. Buzby - Mr. Buzby read the Public Works Report for the period of September 3 through September 30, 1995, which is on file at the Township office.

D. POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT - Chief George Egly - Chief Egly read the Police Report for the month of September, 1995, which is on file at the Township office.

Chairman Bennett asked Chief Egly to prepare a list of what he would consider the ten most dangerous intersections in this Township. This would assist the Supervisors in determining what can be done to possibly prevent accidents. Once the traffic light is installed at the intersection of Diamond Street and Rt. 113, Chairman Bennett suggested the existing blinking light be moved to another dangerous intersection. Chief Egly agrees with utilizing that blinking light at another intersection, and advised there are several locations it could be used at.

Chief Egly commented a vehicle is only as safe as the person who is operating it. Chairman Bennett agreed, and stated that once the traffic signal is installed at Diamond Street and Rt. 113, it does not necessarily mean that it will totally address the problem of accidents at that intersection.

E. ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT - Mr. Warren L. Nace - Mr. Nace read the Zoning Report for the month of September, 1995, which is on file at the Township office.

F. PARK AND RECREATION REPORT - No one was in attendance from the Park and Recreation Board. The Park and Recreation Report for the month of September, 1995 is on file at the Township office.

G. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT - Mr. Robert Grunmeier - Mr. Grunmeier read the Emergency Management Report for the month of September of 1995, which is on file at the Township office.

H. HILLTOWN FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT - Mr. Robert Grunmeier - Mr. Grunmeier read the Hilltown Fire Company Report for the month of September, 1995 which is on file at the Township office.

I. CONFIRMED APPOINTMENTS:

1. Mr. Bob Grunmeier, Hilltown Fire Company - Apparatus Replacement - Mr. Grunmeier recently submitted a request to the Township that in the event funds become available, it would be considered as a donation to the Hilltown Fire Company for a replacement truck. The fire company is hoping to replace a rescue truck with a service van. The present vehicle is a 1988 cube van which the fire company purchased with the intent to keep for five years. It has now been seven years. The van was purchased for approximately \$10,500.00 and has provided good service to the fire company. However, the fire company has increased their services considerably. For instance, in public capacity, it has increased 40% due to the fact that the van was purchased as used apparatus. In the water carrying capacity, it has increased by approximately 24%, which is a combination of new and used apparatus. Mr. Grunmeier explained that the fire company is moving towards rescue from confined space and some types of ropes and riggings rescue, which will require considerably more training and more equipment. Mr. Grunmeier has researched the possible purchase of another used vehicle, however it has proved difficult. The projected cost of a used unit is \$58,000.00 to \$88,000.00 without renovations. Mr. Grunmeier was able to locate three used vehicles. The vehicles he found are 1980 vintage and are what is referred to as "walk-in boxes." Unfortunately, the station will not accommodate a walk-in box since there is only a 9 ft. 4 inch clearance. Mr. Grunmeier advised that one of the biggest disadvantages to a used rescue unit

is greater maintenance cost. In this case, renovations would be required to even get the vehicle into the station. Also, renovations will be required to accommodate modern equipment and to provide safety features for rescue personnel riding in the vehicle. Initial costs plus renovations will exceed \$145,000.00. Mr. Grunmeier estimates that a new unit would cost approximately \$165,000.00. It would only be a 12% savings to purchase a used vehicle. Safety features are standard on a new vehicle and Mr. Grunmeier noted it would also require less long-term maintenance, since a new vehicle comes with a bumper-to-bumper warranty.

Mr. Grunmeier urged the Supervisors to consider the fire company's request for any available funds to be used to obtain this much needed apparatus. Discussion took place concerning the cost of rescue apparatus. Chairman Bennett commented the Supervisors recently began budget preparation and will certainly consider the request from the fire company.

In honor of Fire Prevention Week, Mr. Grunmeier noted an open house will be held tomorrow evening at Station 60 in Line Lexington, and on Thursday evening at Station 61 in Hilltown.

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

1. Representative Thomas Druce was in attendance this evening to present two checks to the Township, one in the amount of \$5,000.00 to be used towards park and recreation costs, and one in the amount of \$5,000.00 to be used towards the ongoing D.A.R.E. program. These funds were made available through the Community Development Fund and the State to help offset costs for these projects. Representative Druce congratulated the Board on the way they run Hilltown Township and by keeping their fiscal house in order. Representative Druce feels these funds are well earned and will be money well spent.

2. Bids for gasoline, diesel fuel, and heating oil were opened.

For Bid #95-09 - Super Unleaded Gasoline, Card Key System - only one bid was received from Farm and Home Oil in the amount of .7435/gallon.

For Bid #95-10 - Diesel Fuel, delivered - only one bid was received from Farm and Home Oil in the amount of .6355/gallon, and for the Diesel Fuel-Card System one bid was received from Farm and Home Oil in the amount of .6490/gallon.

For Bid #95-11 - Heating Oil, delivered - only one bid was received from Farm and Home Oil in the amount of .6205/gallon.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to award Bid #95-09 for Super Unleaded Gasoline to Farm and Home Oil in the amount of .7435/gallon; to award Bid #95-10 for Diesel Fuel (delivered) to Farm and Home Oil in the amount of .6355/gallon, and Diesel Fuel (card system) to Farm and Home Oil in the amount of \$.6490/gallon; and to award Bid #95-11 for Heating Oil (delivered) to Farm and Home Oil in the amount of \$.6205/gallon.

3. Mr. Horrocks advised Mr. Les Lombardi, chairman of the Park and Recreation Board, will be tendering his resignation from that Board because he recently moved from the Township.

4. The Township received two letters of interest for the vacancy on the Planning Commission. Mr. Horrocks will schedule interviews for the interested candidates with the Planning Commission members.

5. Following the Public Hearing for Community Development Block Grant Funding, held on Saturday, September 30, 1995, applications were submitted to Bucks County prior to the deadline.

6. Mr. Horrocks expects to provide the Board with a complete print-out of the 1996 Budget by the October 23, 1995 Supervisor's meeting.

7. To update the Board regarding the traffic signal at Rt. 113 and Diamond Street intersection, condition diagrams were received from PennDot this past week and have been forwarded to the Township Engineer. Mr. Wynn is presently drafting the prevailing wage specifications. Mr. Horrocks believes the project may begin in approximately 2 months, following the bid process.

K. CORRESPONDENCE: None.

L. RESIDENT'S COMMENTS:

1. Mrs. Bolger questioned the approval given by the Board of Supervisors at their September 11th Worksession Meeting for another Comcast tower to be erected at the North Penn water tower located on Clearview Road. Mrs. Bolger did not know that business, other than Township reports, was to be conducted at Worksession meetings. Chairman Bennett replied that decisions can be made at Worksession meetings. Mrs. Bolger feels it was very clandestine of the Board to make a major decision at a Worksession meeting, and she resents it. Mr. Horrocks explained the Supervisors did grant conditional use for A.W.A.C.S. Inc. Metrophone to place antennae on the North Penn Water Tank, and advised there is no tower involved. These antennae do not extend any higher than the water tower. Mr. Horrocks stated the Public Hearing concerning this

matter was very well advertised, per legal requirement.

Mrs. Bolger noted the Comcast tower behind the Township Building is crooked and that there is no light on top of the tower, as was promised.

M. SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS:

1. Supervisor Fox apologized to Mrs. Bolger for his statements at last month's Supervisor's meeting, stating it was very unprofessional of him. Supervisor Fox commented he made those statements in the heat of the moment, and that he thinks very highly of Mrs. Bolger.

2. Supervisor Bennington questioned a zoning violation notice to Homestead Orchards, regarding performance standards on noise. Supervisor Bennington asked how the Township can determine that Homestead Orchards is above the noise limit. Mr. Horrocks hopes that a solution can be reached following discussion with the property owner. If it can not, the Township must do what the Ordinance requires, which is the use of a D.B.A. meter on the property line, as we would any other noise or zoning complaint. Mr. Horrocks does not believe the Township is in possession of a decibel meter. Chief Egly is certain that a decibel meter was purchased in the past. Discussion took place. Mr. Horrocks stated he would contact Mr. Wynn, the Township Engineer for his direction, if the matter escalates any further.

3. Supervisor Bennington advised correspondence was received from a Township resident concerning quarry expansion. Supervisor Bennington wished to make it clear that the Board of Supervisors will never consider quarry expansion without holding advertised public hearings. The quarry has not approached the Township regarding expansion at this time, and Supervisor Bennington assured the residents that the Board would not move forward on this matter until thorough public hearings are held. Chairman Bennett and Supervisor Fox agreed.

4. Supervisor Bennington is very upset with PennDot. Because of the Rt. 313 reconstruction detour, Hilltown Township roads are suffering, yet Supervisor Bennington was told that PennDot has no intention of compensating the Township for repair of those roadways. Supervisor Bennington finds this despicable.

Further, Supervisor Bennington is angry that PennDot, even though Rt. 113 and Diamond Street is an intersection of two State roads, will not provide any funds towards the installation of a traffic signal at that intersection. PennDot is also holding up the process of traffic signal installation at the intersection. Recently, Supervisor Bennington commented there have been two more

serious accidents at the intersection and he is concerned that if there are any more fatalities, the Township will be sued for something they have no control over.

The Board of Supervisors directed Mr. Horrocks to contact Representative Druce concerning both matters mentioned by Supervisor Bennington.

At the last Consortium meeting, Mr. Horrocks explained several instances were cited where in the past, if a municipality was named in a lawsuit for an intersection of two State roads, the judge would refuse to hold the Township responsible. Recently, however, when these same circumstances have taken place, PennDot then sues the municipality and brings them back into the lawsuit. If the collection of impact fees from developers is ever established, Supervisor Bennington suggested that those impact fees be used to purchase traffic signals at dangerous intersections located near the proposed developments.

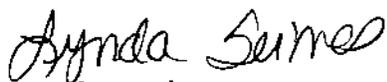
5. Mr. Woody Rush of Blooming Glen complained about the condition of roads in Hilltown Township. For instance, Mr. Rush cited Green Street which was recently paved, but was never striped. Mr. Buzby explained an outside firm has been contracted to do line striping, however due to the expense of bringing them in twice, it was decided that they would be brought in to line stripe when Upper Stump Road was also ready to be striped. At present, there is legal reflective tape on Green Street, spaced as required by the State.

Further, Mr. Rush complained about the sight distance at intersections due to the placement of utility poles, or due to high weeds.

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

O. ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously, the Worksession meeting of the Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors was adjourned at 9:10PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Lynda Seimes

Township Secretary

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