

**HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
REGULARLY SCHEDULED WORKSESSION MEETING  
Monday, August 14, 1995  
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  
George C. Egly, Chief of Police  
Warren Nace, Zoning Officer

Chairman Bennett announced the Board met in Executive Session prior to this meeting with Chief Egly to discuss the possible scarcity of police vehicles in the future. Further, Chairman Bennett announced the Board met in Executive Session prior to the July 24, 1995 Board of Supervisors meeting with Mr. Ken Beer in order to discuss a County Land Use Preservation Program.

A. APPROVAL OF CURRENT BILLING: Chairman Bennett presented the Bills List dated August 15, 1995, with General Fund payments in the amount of \$51,955.65; State Highway Aid payments in the amount of \$114,755.63; and Escrow Fund payments in the amount of \$2,293.44; for a grand total of all funds in the amount of \$169,004.72.

Supervisor Fox questioned the bill from Bedminster Township for electric signal repairs at the intersection of Rt. 113 and Rt. 313 in the amount of \$5,428.20. Mr. Horrocks explained that traffic signal is permitted to Bedminster Township and the signal was struck in a hit and run accident. The amount of \$5,428.20 equals one half of the total cost of repair.

Supervisor Fox questioned the two bills, each for \$500.00, to reimburse the postage meter. Mr. Horrocks explained that generally the postage meter would be reimbursed once, however many certified letters are being mailed to residents of Callowhill Road, explaining their street addresses have been changed.

Chairman Bennett questioned the bill for Kopp Equipment Sales in the amount of \$2,007.00. Mr. Horrocks noted that bill is to purchase the police antennae and cable for the Township radio on top of the Comcast tower.

Motion was made by Supervisor Fox, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to approve the Bills List dated August 15, 1995, subject to audit.

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

1. A packet of information from the Bucks County Planning Commission will be forthcoming to Hilltown Township concerning the Tohickon Creek Stormwater Management Ordinance, which is very similar to the Neshaminy Creek Stormwater Management Ordinance that was passed some time ago.

2. Mr. Horrocks presented a statistics report of the new telephone system for the Board's review. For the period of August 4, 1995 through August 11, 1995, Mr. Horrocks noted the Township received 943 outside telephone calls. Of those 943 calls, 477 calls (or 51%) were transferred by someone dialing an extension. This means over half of the people calling the new phone system know the extension number of the party they are trying to reach. Mr. Horrocks noted 29% of callers are listening to the recording and dialing a single key to reach a specific department, and only 10% are waiting in what is called "Time Out" which is for rotary callers. Mr. Horrocks feels the percentages so far indicate that the new telephone system is meeting with success in the Township.

3. A second request has been received from the Telford Borough Authority, seeking an elected official to serve on a planning team for the Wellhead Protection Program. Mr. Horrocks explained the program is literally for the protection of municipal wells, and the planning team will help determine rules and regulations to protect those wells. Supervisor Fox asked Mr. Horrocks to obtain more information for the Board's review.

4. Six months ago, the Board adopted an Ordinance on Firearms Control, with the proviso that a six month review take place once the Ordinance was adopted. Up until today, there has not been any correspondence, phone calls, or incidents in the Police Department concerning this Ordinance. However in today's mail, correspondence was received from Dr. Alan Krug, State Liaison of the National Rifle Association of America, who at the time of adoption spoke rather favorably about the proposed Ordinance. Dr. Krug's letter expresses concern about Section 6 of the Ordinance which deals with seizure of firearms for "evidentiary purposes." Apparently a few residents have contacted Dr. Krug regarding this portion of the adopted Ordinance. Mr. Horrocks spoke to Chief Egly, who advised these same requirements for the seizure of property for evidentiary purposes is currently permitted under Commonwealth law. The Supervisors directed Mr. Horrocks to respond to Dr. Krug's letter, explaining that it is the Police Chief's recommendation that Section 6 of Ordinance #95-1 should remain.

5. The Park and Recreation Board recommended that the Supervisors authorize a \$500.00 contribution in 1995 and a \$500.00 budget request for contribution in 1996 to the Menlo Carousel

Preservation Committee. Supervisor Bennington asked if funds have been budgeted for charitable contributions, and Mr. Horrocks replied that there are funds budgeted for 1995.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to authorize a \$500.00 contribution to the Menlo Carousel Preservation Committee in 1995, with a tentative \$500.00 contribution to the same organization in 1996.

6. The Township will be receiving a donation of some sport lights this fall. The Park and Recreation Board recommended the Supervisors consider placing those sport lights on the baseball field at the Civic Park. Obviously, Mr. Horrocks advised, this will require a new set of rules for night time use of the park facility.

The Supervisors agreed to accept the donation of the sport lights for the baseball field at the Civic Park, and directed the Park and Recreation Board to establish a new set of rules for evening use of the park for the Board's review.

7. As the Board is aware, the Police Department sends officers to a number of schools for D.A.R.E. instruction. The Police Department received \$4,000.00 from the Pennridge School District this school year alone. The officers participate in the D.A.R.E. program in three different schools - Grasse, Seylar and Bedminster. Dividing the \$4,000.00 by the three schools, it comes out to \$1333.00 per school to reimburse the Township for costs incurred. The total cost per hours expended by Hilltown Police for the Bedminster Elementary School was \$3274.00, taking away the \$1333.00, it leaves a cost of \$1,940.00 that is expended by Hilltown Township to pay its D.A.R.E. officers. Mr. Horrocks requested that the Board authorize him to invoice Bedminster Township for that cost. If Bedminster Township joins Pennridge Regional Police, Supervisor Bennington asked if they will then have their own D.A.R.E. officer. Chief Egly replied that they will, however the proposed merger with Bedminster Township and Regional Police may or may not take place. The cost of this program was calculated because Chief Egly feels Bedminster Township should pay their fair share. With the new school year fast approaching, Chief Egly would like to know if Bedminster will pay their share to Hilltown Township when the D.A.R.E. program begins once again. Chairman Bennett asked if this matter has ever been discussed with Bedminster Township in the past. Chief Egly replied Bedminster's former officer in charge did discuss this in the past, however he does not know if the issue was ever taken to their Board of Supervisors. Chairman Bennett suggested Mr. Horrocks speak with Bedminster Township officials, advising them that invoicing for the D.A.R.E. program may be forthcoming. Chief Egly does not wish to slight the students of Bedminster Elementary School and feels the

D.A.R.E. program should continue. Mr. Horrocks will contact Bedminister Township officials this week.

8. Mr. Horrocks is seeking Board authorization for Chief Egly to attend a seminar called "Supervision, Communications, and Related Stress for Police Managers." This is a two day seminar conducted by D.C.A. to be held in Lionville at a nominal cost. The Board was in agreement to authorize Chief Egly to attend the abovementioned seminar.

9. Mr. Horrocks requested authorization to attend a one day seminar sponsored by the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System concerning the requirements of Act 205. The Board was in agreement to authorize Mr. Horrocks to attend the seminar, as noted.

10. Mr. Horrocks would like to replace the cement slab located under the overhang at the concession stand at the Civic Park. It is a 40' by 40' cement slab with two cross breaks, one of which is approximately 1 inch in depth. Mr. Horrocks is concerned about the liability of possible injury. Mr. Horrocks obtained a verbal quote in the amount of \$2,000.00 complete. Supervisor Fox asked if money is available in the Capital Project Fund and Mr. Horrocks replied that there are funds available.

Motion was made by Supervisor Fox, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to authorize funds to replace the cement slab at the concession stand at the Civic Park, as discussed.

11. Mr. Horrocks is seeking authorization to advertise bids for a 50' by 100' pole barn and two salt storage structures. These items have been covered in the new Bond Issue, which is one of the reasons the Bond was refinanced. Mr. Horrocks recommended that these structures be placed in the rear area of this Township building. The matter has been discussed with Mr. Wynn and the location would meet all zoning requirements. There are several reasons Mr. Horrocks is recommending that these buildings be constructed here at the Township building instead of the site at Rt. 113 and Callowhill Road as originally discussed, including saving on the cost of driveway and parking lot construction into the site (approximately \$40,000.00); and the security factor of the police department being located on this site. Also, there had been discussion of Deep Run utilizing the land at Rt. 113 and Callowhill Road, however Mr. Horrocks noted Deep Run Sports Association has consummated a lease with Carson Helicopters for approximately 5 acres for a nominal fee per year. Mr. Horrocks has spoken with a salesman from a certain manufacturer of pole barns, who advised the process can take up to three months from date of bid award until actual construction takes place. Hopefully, the salt and cinders will be under cover by the winter. Mr. Horrocks noted

there is a local company, American Pole Barn, who has advised they will not formally bid on a pole barn, though they would quote on one. Chairman Bennett feels it is important that this pole barn and the salt storage sheds tie in with the architecture of this Township building, which is a beautiful building that is only six years old. Chairman Bennett would like to see an artist's conception of the proposed buildings. Mr. Horrocks stated some of the companies who will bid on this project will provide brochures showing the finished product, however he doubts that any will supply actual artist renditions of the building. Supervisor Fox has some reservations about this proposal because he does not believe that any of the pole barn type buildings will "fit in" with the appearance of the present Township building. Supervisor Bennington reminded the Supervisors that these pole barns are for the specific purpose of salt storage, and stated he does not believe there are a great deal of building styles to choose from. Mr. Horrocks suggested a landscaped berm could be constructed on the street side of any of these buildings in order to act as a visual buffer. Supervisor Fox knows that Mr. Wynn has made some arrangements concerning the size and location of the buildings, and asked if a formal plan from Mr. Wynn has been completed. Mr. Horrocks replied Mr. Wynn has provided a scaled sketch plan, noting all three structures will be located towards the tower and behind the building.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to authorize advertising for bidding of the two salt storage buildings and a seasonal storage building.

12. Mr. Horrocks is seeking Board authorization to advertise an Ordinance dealing with the intersection of Upper Stump Road and Upper Church Road, making it a four way stop sign. This intersection had been discussed previously, with the thought of turning the existing stop sign. However, after speaking with members of the Police Department, Mr. Horrocks feels a four way stop sign might be the safest alternative. Because this is a shared intersection with New Britain Township, they would also have to adopt a similar Ordinance.

Motion was made by Supervisor Fox, seconded by Supervisor Bennington, and carried unanimously to advertise for an Ordinance establishing a four way stop sign at the intersection of Upper Stump Road and Upper Church Road.

13. Mr. Horrocks is seeking the Board's authorization to have the Solicitor's office review what is commonly known as the "Nuisance Ordinance." This is an Ordinance which was adopted in 1985, dealing with animals, noise, and tall grass. Mr. Horrocks is hoping to modernize this Ordinance and include any new or unique circumstances which should be part of this Ordinance. The Board

was in agreement to authorize the Township Solicitor to review and possibly revise the current Nuisance Ordinance.

14. The Township received a Conditional Use application from A.W.A.C.S. Inc., doing business as Comcast Metrophone, who are also on the Planning Commission agenda this month, for their review and recommendation to the Board. Mr. Horrocks would like to confirm a date of Tuesday, September 5, 1995, at 2:00PM, for the Conditional Use Hearing which will be advertised in the newspaper.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to authorize advertisement of the Conditional Use Hearing for A.W.A.C.S. Inc. at 2:00PM on Tuesday, September 5, 1995.

15. Mr. Horrocks asked the Board's approval to hire Mr. John Harry at a cost of approximately \$250.00, to develop a punchlist so that the Township can re-bid the renovation work at the Hartzel-Strassburger property. Mr. Horrocks believes it would be in the Township's best interest not to wait for word from the County, and to hire Mr. Harry expeditiously so that he can immediately begin to develop the punchlist as required.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to hire Mr. John Harry at the cost of approximately \$250.00 to develop a punchlist for correcting the problems at the Hartzel-Strassburger property.

16. Mr. Horrocks introduced Mr. Greg Lippincott who has been employed in the administrative office of the Township this summer on a number of computer projects. Mr. Horrocks thanked Mr. Lippincott for all his help. Chief Egly also thanked Mr. Lippincott for his assistance with the police computer programs.

C. CORRESPONDENCE - Mr. Bruce G. Horrocks, Township Manager -

1. Correspondence was received from Ms. Barb O'Reilly, advising that Hilltown Horseways has disbanded due to lack of volunteers and member support.

2. On August 10, 1995, the Township received a letter of resignation from Mr. Joel Ward from his seat on the Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Ward resigned for personal reasons. Mr. Horrocks is seeking direction from the Board as to how to proceed in order to fill this vacancy.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to advertise for the vacancy on the Zoning Hearing Board.

D. LINENS FOR SIGNATURE:

1. Loeffler Subdivision
2. Nickel Tract Subdivision

E. CONFIRMED APPOINTMENTS: None.

F. HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY REPORT - Mr. Groff was not present this evening. The Water and Sewer Authority Report for the month of July, 1995, is on file at the Township office.

Supervisor Bennington asked when the Township building will finally be connected to public sewer. Mr. Horrocks replied the Township building will be connected to public water much sooner than it will be connected to public sewer. The infrastructure will be constructed before any homes are occupied in the Hilltown Hunt Subdivision. Connection to public sewer for the Township building could take up to 8 to 10 months for completion.

G. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS - Mr. Buzby was not present this evening. The Public Works Report for the period of June 25, 1995 through August 5, 1995, is on file at the Township office.

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

Chairman Bennett felt the statistics given for the number of Move In/Move Out Permits was meaningless, and Chief Egly agreed, stating the Ordinance that addresses Move In/Move Out Permits should be revamped to require a minimal fine.

A D.U.I. checkpoint was conducted this past Saturday night at the border of Silverdale Borough and Hilltown Township, taking several motorists off the road.

As was discussed in Executive Session prior to this meeting, Chief Egly is requesting authorization, through the State bid, to begin looking for police vehicles now. Apparently, Chief Egly explained, the State bid is going to be the only way to obtain police vehicles through General Motors. General Motors will be manufacturing only 1,500 police vehicle packages for 1996, and will eventually be phasing out the production of police vehicles completely. The Ford Motor Company also intends to halt production of their line of police vehicles at the end of 1996. Chief Egly feels an order should be placed for two police vehicles now, and that delivery should be requested in 1996.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to authorize purchase of two police vehicles for 1996 with the condition that the funds not be

disbursed until 1996.

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

J. PARK AND RECREATION REPORT - The Park and Recreation Report for the month of July, 1995 is on file at the Township office.

K. HILLTOWN FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT - Mr. Devlin read the Hilltown Fire Company Report for the month of July, 1995, which is on file at the Township office.

Mr. Devlin advised the chief of Hilltown Fire Company attended a meeting with the Supervisors concerning the Fire Marshall position and has prepared the following for the Board's review: "Purpose - To identify possible hazards which threaten the residents of Hilltown Township and make certain prevention steps are in place. Duties - To perform inspections of facilities to insure public safety and environmental safety in Hilltown Township. Notify and coordinate with emergency services of all hazards and deficiencies, so that proper mitigation steps can be implemented. Take an active roll in the development of life safety ordinances in Hilltown Township, review site plans for new construction in the Township, and also review site plans for expansion of existing structures and use changes. Perform follow-up inspections to insure all safety issues are being addressed as requested by Hilltown Township. To be point of contact for emergency services, to express all concerns in regard to life safety, environmental protection, and the protection of property; and to work with all involved agencies to investigate emergency incidents and to work towards cause identification so that preventive steps may be taken. Education - This person should be familiar with all aspects of emergency services, knowledgeable in fire calls and determination, building construction, suppression and alerting systems, safety inspections, public safety education, municipal government operations and emergency management procedures and responsibilities. Goal - To incorporate both Fire Marshall responsibilities and the Emergency Management Coordinator responsibilities into one position so that all life safety requirements may be standardized for Hilltown Township. These standardized procedures will shape the future and make Hilltown Township a safer place to live. Compensation is to be determined."

Supervisor Fox admires the fire company volunteers for their fire fighting efforts, especially during the recent spell of hot weather, and thanked the emergency personnel for their dedication. Chairman Bennett and Supervisor Bennington concurred with Supervisor Fox's sentiments.



L. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT - Mr. William Devlin  
Mr. Devlin read the Emergency Management Report for the month of July, 1995, which is on file at the Township office.

Mr. Devlin investigated a fuel spill at Keystone Road and Rt. 113, which consisted of a spill of approximately 25 to 30 gallons of a heavy petroleum product. PennDot did the clean-up after notification by the Hilltown Township Police Department.

M. RESIDENT'S COMMENTS:

1. Mr. Paul Lapinski of Middle Road was before the Board previously concerning the traffic on his street due to the detour of Dublin Borough. At that time, the Supervisors proposed limiting truck traffic on Middle Road and other roads that are affected by the detour via an Ordinance. That Ordinance was adopted, however Mr. Lapinski advised there has been minimal police effort to enforce this Ordinance. Mr. Lapinski stated Middle Road's cartway is 18 ft. wide, and there have been two collisions in front of his home. Mr. Lapinski appealed to the Board for more diligent enforcement of the Ordinance concerning traffic on Middle Road. Chairman Bennett has personally spoken to Mr. Lapinski several times, and has explained that this matter is being handled by Chief Egly and the Police Department. Chairman Bennett noted the Township can not afford to provide a full-time police officer to patrol Middle Road. Mr. Lapinski asked Chief Egly how many tickets have been issued. Chief Egly replied 37 tickets were issued to truck traffic. Mr. Lapinski noted traffic is heavier on Middle Road during certain times of the day, and suggested speed traps or safety checkpoints be established during those time periods. With the new school year fast approaching, Mr. Lapinski is very concerned about children walking along that road to the bus stop. Mr. Lapinski is planning to petition the school board to have his children's bus stop moved to his driveway so they will not have to walk on Middle Road. Discussion took place concerning the possible solutions to this problem.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bennington, seconded by Supervisor Fox, and carried unanimously to authorize six to eight hours of police overtime over a two week period in order to enforce the Ordinance regulating truck traffic on several roads, including Middle Road, throughout Hilltown Township, as discussed above.

2. Mrs. Jean Bolger works at the Dublin Bakery and is very familiar with the situation Mr. Lapinski spoke about. Mrs. Bolger feels that PennDot is responsible because they are working on the road and have caused the detour. Mrs. Bolger's biggest complaint is that there is no traffic control signage offered by PennDot while they are repairing the road. Mrs. Bolger feels PennDot should be responsible for posting "No Truck Traffic" signs. Mr.

Horrocks and Chief Egly recently attended a meeting in Dublin Borough, along with State Representative Druce, State Senator Heckler, the Project Manager of PennDot, Dublin Borough Manager, and representatives of the Dublin Borough business community. The consensus was that PennDot has not done a sufficient job with this project, and that there would not be any cooperation from Hilltown Township or Bedminster Township to advertise any detour. There will be signs erected which state "Dublin Borough Business District Open," however Mr. Horrocks believes that will just direct additional traffic on Hilltown Township roadways. The State is unwilling to provide any funds to the Township to re-build roads or to pay for police overtime services.

3. Mr. John Gerner of the News Herald is not a resident of Hilltown Township, however he would like to address a matter he recently witnessed. Mr. Gerner spent a total of three days last week in Bucks County Court of Common Pleas, specifically to cover a vehicular homicide trial regarding Mr. Charles Slick, who was charged with killing his friend in a motor vehicle accident which took place in Hilltown Township on March 4, 1995. Chief Egly normally gives a report each month to the Board of Supervisors on police activities, which consists of rather cold, hard statistics. However, Mr. Gerner advised, the Supervisors and the public do not see the effort of the police officers during something like a vehicular homicide case, which is a very sad, tragic situation. In this instance, the gentleman driving the vehicle was proven intoxicated, as was the victim. Mr. Gerner was very impressed with the amount of work that was done by four particular Hilltown Township officers with regard to this case. The prosecuting officer was Officer Matthew Dreyer, who was the first on the scene of the accident on March 4th. The other officers included Officer James Kane, Lt. Detective Kerry Trauger, and Officer Randall Tanghe, who testified for well over two and a half hours, under very close cross examination. Mr. Gerner was impressed that these four men, together with Jim Apgar, who is a member of the Pennridge Regional Police, gave such expert and precise testimony. Mr. Gerner was especially impressed with Officer Tanghe who was on the stand for a great deal of time, and who had worked for perhaps 100 hours compiling this accident report. Officer Tanghe is the expert on traffic reconstruction for Hilltown Township and his report was used as a basis for the prosecution's argument. Over the past 35 years, Mr. Gerner has had the opportunity to be present at a number of trials. In this particular instance of vehicular homicide, this man was sentenced to three to six years in Graterford Prison.

Mr. Gerner commented Hilltown Township is fortunate to have an excellent Police Department, and from his observation, the four officers involved in this particular case did a fine job in a professional and courteous manner. Mr. Gerner feels that Chief Egly and the Board of Supervisors should be very proud of their

Police Department. Mr. Gerner noted part of the reason there are so many developments proposed in Hilltown Township is because people are looking for a certain quality of life. People want good schools, clean streets, good lighting, and the assurance that if they call 911, a competent officer will respond. Mr. Gerner commended the Hilltown Township Police Department for a job well done.

N. SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS:

1. Supervisor Bennington advised the acting chief of the Silverdale Fire Company asked that a copy of the minutes of the B.O.C.A. Hearings for Blooming Glen Restorations be forwarded to him.

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 August 14, 1995 Board of Supervisors meeting was adjourned at 9:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Lynda Seimes  
Township Secretary

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