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HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULARLY SCHEDULED WORKSESSION
ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING
FOR AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF WATER CONSERVATION REQUIREMENTS FOR
ALL NEW STRUCTURES WITHIN HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP
Monday, April 13, 1992
8:00PM

Those present: William H. Bennett, Jr. - Chairman
Kenneth B. Bennington - Vice-Chairman
Jack C. Fox - Supervisor
Bruce G. Horrocks - Township Manager
Thomas Buzby - Director of Public Works
Kerry Trauger - Police Department
Eric Applegate - Code Enforcement Officer

*The Public Hearing, which was advertised in a local newspaper, is being held for consideration of an Ordinance providing for the establishment of water conservation requirements for all new structures within Hilltown Township. The Public Hearing began at 8:00PM.

Mr. Horrocks advised the Board of Supervisors will hear public comment concerning the proposed Ordinance, regarding water conservation, and the changes thereto from our current Ordinance, to be considered for adoption at the April 27, 1992 Board of Supervisors meeting.

The current Ordinance, concerning water closets, allows the use of 3.5 gallons per flush, and the proposed Ordinance will allow for the use of 1.6 gallons per flush, at the request of the Delaware River Basin Commission. Mr. Horrocks noted currently, Hilltown Township's requirements on sinks, lavatories, showers, etc. is 2.75 gallons per minute of flow. The Delaware River Basin Commission is suggesting 3 gallons per minute of flow, which is actually higher. The proposed Ordinance takes water closets down to 1.6 gallons per flush, and brings showers, sinks, and lavatories up to 3 gallons per minute of flow. Chairman Bennett stated the above would apply primarily to new construction and replacement of facilities.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Mr. Paul Heck - Mr. Heck explained he recently constructed a building on Bethlehem Pike in Hilltown Township, which currently contains eight toilets. The building itself is a public use building - a doctor's office. Mr. Heck stated they were forced to purchase two plungers because the eight toilets do not work properly. The developer who constructed the building advised Mr. Heck he could not purchase the old fashioned types of toilets, due to BOCA regulations. Only the new toilets, which feature the reduced flow, can be utilized in new construction. Mr. Heck felt he had purchased "top of the line toilets", and does not feel that reducing the flow further will help the toilets to operate any better.

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Supervisor Fox was in agreement, and had heard many times before that these new toilets do not work properly. However, the Delaware River Basin Commission, which is a Federal agency, has required these new standards be adopted as of May of 1992. If Hilltown Township does not comply, the Township could be fined a large amount of money.

Supervisor Bennington feels the entire issue is ridiculous, because Hilltown Township must follow guidelines established by the Federal Government, yet those same guidelines obviously do not work.

Chairman Bennett told Mr. Heck the Board would take his comments into consideration, but felt there was not much the Board could do about it, as adoption of these requirements are being mandated by the Federal Government.

2. Supervisor Bennington asked the Fire Chief how this would affect water pressure in regards to fire fighting, within a new home. Mr. Grunmeier replied if the homeowner were to install residential sprinkler systems, it may help the situation.

*The Public Hearing for the consideration of an Ordinance providing for the establishment of water conservation requirements for all new structures within Hilltown Township adjourned at 8:10PM, and the regularly scheduled Hilltown Township Board of Supervisor's Worksession Meeting of April 13, 1992 resumed.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynda Seimes

Lynda Seimes
Township Secretary

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