

409

HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MEETING  
January 22, 1990

The meeting of the Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman William H. Bennett at 7:30 P.M.

Members present were: William H. Bennett, Chairman  
Kenneth B. Bennington, Vice Chairman  
Betty J. Kelly, Supervisor

Others present were: James H. Singley, Township Manager  
Gloria G. Neiman, Township Secretary  
John Rice, Township Solicitor  
C. Robert Wynn, Township Engineer  
Chief George C. Egly, Director of Police  
Thomas Buzby, Director of Public Works

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Bennington referred to Page 3, Item D(5) of the 12/26/89 Minutes and emphasized that he did not have a vote on budget matters, only input. Chairman Bennett noted an error made on Page 3, Item 6, cost of Police Reports should read \$8.00. Motion was made by Mrs. Kelly to approve the minutes of the 12/26/89 Supervisors' meeting as corrected; motion seconded by Mr. Bennington and carried unanimously.

1/2/90 Reorganization Meeting Minutes - Chairman Bennett noted that Page 3, Item G, Tax Rates included two new taxes: Occupational Privilege Tax \$5.00; and Debt Service 2 mills. Motion was made by Mr. Bennington to approve the minutes of the 1/2/90 Reorganization Meeting as written; motion seconded by Mrs. Kelly and carried unanimously.

B. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: Mr. Bennington questioned the following bills: American Express corporate card account (used for conventions); A & T Chevrolet (vehicle repairs to police vehicles which Rodger's Garage could not handle); and Wampole Miller (traffic signal repair - Mr. Singley explained that a portion of this bill would be reimbursed to the township thru settlement of traffic accidents). Mr. Bennett questioned \$384.17 for VASCAR calibrating; the Chief indicated this is done every 30 days. Motion was made by Mrs. Kelly to pay all bills when due; motion was seconded by Mr. Bennington and carried unanimously.

C. TREASURER'S REPORT: Mr. Singley read the report for the month of January 1990: General Fund \$41,704.14; Street Lighting Fund \$70.01; Fire Hydrant Fund \$3,388.59; Capital Projects Fund \$153.29; Highway Aid Fund \$461.22; Police Pension Fund \$2,132.61; Non-Uniform Pension Fund \$400.17; Fire Protection Fund \$15,661.26; and Escrow Fund \$181.54. Motion was made by Mr. Bennington to accept the Treasurer's Report as given subject to audit; motion seconded by Mrs. Kelly and carried unanimously.

9. Consortium Update - meeting held Thursday, 1/18/90, with new Executive Director of the Bucks County Industrial Development Corporation. Approximately 17 municipalities will be participating in cooperative purchasing through the Consortium. Next meeting will be held 2/15/90 at 8:30 A.M. in Quakertown.

10. Public Works Report - Mr. Buzby read the report dated 12/3/89 to 12/30/89 which is on file at the township office. Mr. Buzby stated that the road department is currently working on repair of roads and advised residents to report any area requiring repair to the township. Mr. Bennington asked status of rock salt and cinder supply; Mr. Buzby stated that there is still a sufficient amount remaining in the 1990 budget. In answer to Mr. Bennett's question regarding replacement of a road crew member who has resigned, Mr. Buzby replied that an advertisement has been placed in the newspaper.

11. Police Chief's Report - Chief Egly read the December 1989 report which is on file at the township office. Mr. Bennington questioned low mileage on two police vehicle (#36-7 and #36-10); Chief Egly explained that these are older cars.

G. ENGINEERING/PLANNING:

1. Plan Review Extensions:

Richter Drafting - 90 day extension per letter dated 1/16/90.

Habitations, Inc. - 90 day extension per letter dated 1/16/90.

St. Philip's Orthodox Church - 90 day extension per letter dated 1/15/90

The following subdivisions have not submitted offers of extension and PC has recommended they be denied:

Lotier Land Development - Motion was made by Mr. Bennington to deny the Lotier Land Development unless an extension is received; motion seconded by Mrs. Kelly and carried unanimously.

Bearings & Drives Land Development - Motion was made by Mr. Bennington to deny the Bearings & Drive Development Plan unless an extension is received; motion seconded by Mrs. Kelly and carried unanimously.

McNamara Subdivision - Motion was made by Mr. Bennington to deny the McNamara Subdivision Plan unless an extension is granted; motion seconded by Mrs. Kelly and carried unanimously.

All of the above denial actions are based on non-compliance with Zoning and Subdivision Ordinance requirements as noted on the engineering and/or Bucks County Planning Commission reviews of the plans.

2. Baker Act 537 Revision - Private request to DER. Motion was made by Mr. Bennington to allow the letter drafted by C. Robert Wynn (with changes made by Planning Commission) to be sent to DER; motion seconded by Mrs. Kelly and carried unanimously.

3. Linens to be signed (previously approved): Pritz Subdivision and Pheasant Ridge (Toth) Subdivision.

H. SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Mr. Rice stated that there are resolutions for the Toth Subdivision which were adopted at the 12/11/89 meeting which require the Board's signatures after tonight's meeting.

I. RESIDENT'S COMMENTS:

1. Paul Groeber, 1506 Keystone Drive - Mr. Groeber questioned why a business is still being operated at 1500 Keystone Drive. He stated that Ferguson Towing has resumed operation of a business and asked that action be taken against Mr. Ferguson and the property owner, William Bennett. Mr. Bennett stated he would abstain from voting on this issue; and that he has been in touch with the Building Inspector who has taken pictures of the area. Mr. Groeber requested that he be allowed to view the pictures. Discussion followed between Mr. Bennett and Mr. Groeber regarding the amount of vehicles visible on the property.

2. William Godek, Broad Street - Mr. Godek asked if the Township was aware of surveying performed on Broad Street on January 14th; Mr. Rice answered that surveying is allowed within the township without securing a permit. Mr. Godek also asked if the Township has been advised of proposed date of water testing for the Habitations development. Mr. Wynn assured Mr. Godek that he would be advised in advance of the testing date (11 wells are proposed for testing). Mr. Godek again questioned process by which individual wells were allowed at this development. Mr. Wynn explained that the hydrogeologist suggested that the testing procedures be modified and the Authority concurred with their recommendation.

3. John Snyder, 2018 Mill Road, Perkasie - Mr. Snyder stated that there has been a question regarding possible conflict of interest by Mr. Snyder being a member of the Zoning Hearing Board and also providing the township with insurance (thru Nationwide Insurance). The Ethics Commission has reported that, as long as a statement is made, informing the public of Mr. Snyder's position on the Zoning Hearing Board and that he had bid on the insurance, there would be no conflict of interest. Mr. Snyder stated that he is a member of the Zoning Hearing Board and that his company has been awarded the insurance bid for 1990. Chairman Bennett stated that the insurance bids are sent to various companies and that this is a matter of public record; he further commented that his policy has been to hire township residents for positions within the township and to continue to do business with local businesses whenever possible. Chairman Bennett referred the question to the Township Solicitor; Mr. Rice replied (according to the PA State Ethics Code) that as long as the appointment and bid for insurance were both open and public processes, there would be no conflict. Mr. Singley assured the residents that the insurance bid was sent out for competitive bids.

J. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Letter received from Franconia Township regarding notice of a Zoning Hearing Board meeting on 1/23/90 at 7:00 PM at Franconia Township for continuation of application of Frank and Anne Palermo, 4 County Line Rd., Souderton for variance to allow continuation of 3 residential and 2 commercial uses.

2. Letter received from Falls Township asking if Hilltown would like to participate in a county wide Cable Advisory Board. Mr. Bennington asked status of Suburban Cable contract; this has been placed on hold pending legislation. Chairman Bennett suggested that the Consortium may be interested in this issue.

3. Letter received from Haines & Kibblehouse, advising that H & K Materials has made application to DER for an air quality control operating permit for a black top plant to be located at Skunk Hollow Road, Chalfont.

4. Fire company reports received from: Dublin, Souderton, Telford, Silverdale, and Perkasie. Annual reports received from Perkasie, Dublin, and Telford.

K. SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS:

1. Mrs. Kelly stated that she believes the township residents should have the opportunity to decide their choice of recreational facilities.

2. Chairman Bennett stated that there will be a question in the quarterly newsletter addressing this issue.

3. Mr. Bennington questioned the supply of oil to the tanks at the Scout Cabin. Mr. Buzby stated that he has checked the tanks and contacted the oil supplier. Regarding a clock for the meeting room, Chief Egly stated that one is being made. Mr. Bennington also questioned number of applications received for the positions of Assistant Manager and the Building Inspector. Mr. Singley stated that approximately 150 applications have been received for the Assistant Manager's position and 12 applications have been received for the Building Inspector/Zoning Officer.

4. Mr. Bennington stated that Jack Hetherington withdrew from the position of Solicitor for the Zoning Hearing Board. Motion was made by Mr. Bennington to hire the firm of Grim, Biehn, Thatcher & Helf as the Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor; motion seconded by Mr. Bennett; Mrs. Kelly was opposed; motion carried 2:1. Mrs. Kelly referred to Act 535, Article IX, and read from Section 909, General Provisions and Section 907, Expenditures for Services, stating that the Zoning Hearing Board may employ secretaries, clerks and legal counsel.

Mrs. Kelly stated that it is her feeling that the Zoning Hearing Board should be allowed to chose their own solicitor. Mr. Bennington stated that the Zoning Hearing Board members are appointed by the Board of Supervisors and that the Supervisors pay the Township Zoning Officer/Solicitor. Mrs. Kelly argued that the Zoning Hearing Board members were satisfied with the previous solicitor. Chairman Bennett stated that the Supervisors have appointed the Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor for the last several years; and that the reason for the change was the increase in solicitor's rates. Discussion followed between Mrs. Kelly and Mr. Bennett.

5. Mr. Bennington stated that there will be a public hearing before a decision is made on the H & K Asphalt plant.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria G. Neiman  
Township Secretary