

HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP  
SUPERVISORS' MEETING  
June 12, 1989

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

Members present were: Robert H. Grunmeier, Chairman  
Betty J. Kelly, Vice Chairperson  
William H. Bennett, Jr., Supervisor

Others present were: James H. Singley, Township Manager  
Lynda S. Seimes, Ass't. Secretary  
George C. Egly, Jr., Chief of Police  
Thomas Buzby, Roadmaster  
Francis X. Grabowski, Twp. Solicitor  
C. Robert Wynn, Township Engineer

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion was made by Mrs. Kelly to approve the minutes of the May 22, 1989 Supervisors' meeting as written, motion seconded by Mr. Bennett and carried unanimously.

B. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: General Fund Account - \$40,849.99; Street Lighting Acct. - \$323.16; State Highway Aid - \$1,185.56. Mr. Bennett questioned the food bill for the dedication ceremonies, amounting to approximately \$3,700; Mr. Singley stated that this was paid the day of the dedication. Mrs. Kelly stated that this bill was itemized on a per head basis. Mr. Bennett also questioned cost of dedication books and draperies (\$1,865.00) for the meeting room; Mr. Singley explained that there was a special fund set up for the Dedication Committee and that the News Herald was paid for the booklets out of that fund. Mr. Bennett requested a complete itemized account of dedication ceremonies' cost by the next meeting. He also questioned office equipment and supplies cost and asked if this was bought through the Consortium. Mr. Singley explained this was advertised through the HTWSA on a competitive bid process. Motion was made by Mrs. Kelly to pay all bills when due; motion was seconded by Mr. Bennett, who requested that the bills list be amended to include the food bill (\$3,700.00) and that an accounting be made of the dedication costs; motion carried unanimously.

C. TREASURER'S REPORT: Mr. Singley read the report for the month of June 1989: General Fund - \$164,786.90; Street Lighting Fund - \$2,791.92; Fire Hydrant Fund - \$2,987.09; Capital Projects - \$309.29; Highway Aid Fund - \$123,973.50; Police Pension Fund - \$45,276.83; Non-Uniform Pension Fund - \$25,375.86; Federal Revenue Sharing - \$3,664.92; Fire Protection Fund - \$75,748.11; and Escrow Fund Account - \$12,140.23. Mr. Bennett questioned the date the Escrow Fund Account was enacted; Mr. Singley stated it has been in process for the last 1½ months. Motion was made by Mr. Bennett to accept the Treasurer's Report as read, subject to audit; motion was seconded by Mrs. Kelly and carried unanimously.

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D. CONFIRMED APPOINTMENTS:

James Strothers, representing Mr. Ludlow, requested relief of two subdivision requirements -- one being relief from the public water supply with lots less than 5 acres (applicant is seeking permission to use individual wells); PC has recommended money be escrowed for cost of future hook-up. Mr. Wynn stated that the PC also indicated they wanted the water connection fee for the existing house to be paid and lateral costs included in the escrow for all three houses. Mr. Grabowski reported that another requirement would be the need for a capital sum (\$10,500) paid to the Authority towards the ultimate construction of a water line along Diamond Street (a letter has been sent to the applicant regarding this requirement). Mr. Strothers also requested relief from curbing, sidewalk and roadway widening requirement along Diamond Street costs of curbing and sidewalk would be approximately \$10,000). (PC has not yet made a formal recommendation on the plan). Motion was made by Mr. Bennett to grant a waiver on the central well system with water connection fees of \$10,000 (2 new homes at \$4,000; existing house at \$2,000); the plumbing costs for future laterals be placed in escrow; HTWSA's contribution of \$10,500; and waiver of curbing and sidewalk requirement; motion seconded by Mrs. Kelly and carried unanimously.

E. MANAGER'S REPORT:

1. Fire Panel - Mr. Singley reported a meeting was held last Tuesday; next meeting will be scheduled prior to or the week of the next Supervisors' meeting. A future meeting is proposed with Presidents and Chiefs of all fire companies; another meeting with the general population of all volunteer fire companies; and another meeting with all township residents to receive their input.

2. Upper Bucks County Consortium - Change of meeting location this Thursday, June 15th to the East Rockhill Township Municipal Building. Subject of this meeting is use/service agencies of Bucks County.

3. DCA Fire Report - This study, performed through the Upper Bucks County Volunteer Fire Department and the Consortium, will be available to the Fire Panel.

4. Letter received from a resident, Mr. A.R. Schooley, stating his concern over a letter he received from Silverdale Fire Company (a copy of that letter was enclosed). Mr. Singley reported that the May 1989 Silverdale Fire Company letter states, "although there is a new fire tax in Hilltown Township, the fire company has yet to receive any funds from this tax." Mr. Singley further advised that funding is not normally distributed until September of each year. Mr. Bennett stated that both the fire and police panels were appointed in February, and he is afraid

it will be several months until the fire panel is in a position to recommend a plan to the Supervisors. Mr. Bennett proposed that the Township allocate to the fire companies (for 1989 only) the basis of what was received last year plus an increase, i.e., an additional \$15,000 to last year's amount. He further remarked that he would like "to put it to rest that the residents have fire protection in this township". Chairman Grunmeier stated he had no knowledge of the letter which was sent by Silverdale Fire Co.; Mr. Bennett also said he had no knowledge of the letter. Chairman Grunmeier stated that the people who wrote the letter, stating that fire protection was inadequate, owe the township residents an apology because they instilled fear in the residents. Chairman Grunmeier emphasized that the township has the same protection by the fire companies as it has had for the last six years and nothing has changed. Mr. Bennett stated that the perspective of the people is that their fire coverage is not adequate; but that he agrees with Mr. Grunmeier that there is adequate fire protection. Mr. Grunmeier stated he has had many calls from residents; that he has called Bucks County and Montgomery County radio to verify coverage -- they informed him that if there is a contract with any fire company, that fire company is obligated to serve that township. A motion was made by Chairman Grunmeier to answer Mr. Schooley's letter, informing him that the Fire Review Board is working on fire protection within the township and that the township had no knowledge of this letter being sent; also stating that the fire protection is still the same; motion seconded by Mr. Bennett and carried unanimously.

5. Hilltown Township Volunteer Fire Company is requesting a 50% advance of 1989 funds. Motion was made by Mr. Bennett to advance 50% of the same monies received last year to Hilltown Township Volunteer Fire Company; motion seconded by Mrs. Kelly and carried unanimously.

6. Hilltown Post Office - Mr. Singley read a letter, dated 6/2/89, from the South Jersey Division of the U.S. Postal Service, stating that they have determined the Hilltown Post Office building is inadequate to efficiently serve the needs of the community and asking for the Township's input. Mr. Singley requested that a meeting be set up with the South Jersey Division; also that input be received from the P.C. Chairman Grunmeier agreed to this suggestion and stated that the Board should personally meet with them and, possibly, talk to them about the Township constructing a building, having a central post office, which could be leased to the postal service. The Board agreed to this suggestion. Mr. Singley will provide growth figures and request input from the P.C. regarding location of a central post office.

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7. Hilltown Industrial Park - Request from Schwartz Realtors to change the name of the existing private service road at Hilltown Industrial Park from Cath-Scott Road to Tech Drive. Motion was made by Mr. Bennett to adopt Resolution #89-22, changing the name from Cath-Scott Road to Tech Drive with cost and installation of new sign to be paid by Hilltown Industrial Park; motion seconded by Mrs. Kelly and carried unanimously.

8. Park & Recreation - meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 13, 1989 - public input will be heard regarding the grant for rehabilitation of the former Hilltown Township municipal building site.

9. Grant Resolution - Motion was made by Mrs. Kelly to adopt Resolution #89-21, Recreational Improvement and Rehabilitation Act (RIRA) Program Resolution for the rehabilitation of the former Hilltown Township Municipal Building Site; motion seconded by Mr. Bennett and carried unanimously. The Board approved Mr. Singley's request to solicit letters of recommendation from the various boards, commissions and civic organizations in support of the project.

10. Torrisi Request - Mr. Singley indicated this item will be deleted from agenda.

11. Orchard Road Speed Survey - Chief Egly reported that speed survey was conducted on Orchard Road which resulted in a speed limit of 35 mph. The Board unanimously agreed to allow the Township Solicitor to draw up an ordinance for advertisement regarding lowering of the speed limit on Orchard Road to 35 mph.

F. POLICE REPORT: Chief Egly presented the report for the month of May 1989. This report is on file at the Township office. Chief Egly requested taping unit for incoming phone calls. Since this amount will be over \$4,000, RFP's must be sent out. Motion was made by Mrs. Kelly to allow the Township Manager to let out RFP's for taping equipment; motion seconded by Mr. Bennett and carried unanimously. (Note: this motion made later in the meeting, after consultation with the Township Manager during course of the meeting).

Sgt. Miller has requested the township purchase eight weight scales to weigh trucks at a cost of \$3,500.00 each. Discussion followed between the Chief and Supervisors regarding budgeted monies. The Board agreed to table the request for scales at this time until the 1990 budget is discussed.

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G. ROAD REPORT: Mr. Buzby presented the report dated May 7 to June 3, 1989 which is on file at the township office. Mr. Bennett questioned how much equipment the road department owns for mowing of weeds along roadways; also how many days it would take to perform only this task. Mr. Buzby answered the road department owns two mowers and that it would take approximately four days; however, trimming would require two weeks. Mr. Buzby stated that this task is performed three times a year. In answer to Mr. Grunmeier's question, Mr. Buzby stated that signage for the township building will be placed this week.

H. ENGINEERING/PLANNING:

1. Good Transport - PC has recommended preliminary plan approval subject to resolution by the Supervisors of off-site improvements. The Board agreed to table this item until their first meeting in July.

2. Phinney Subdivision (off of Rt. 152) - Motion was made by Mr. Bennett to forward a letter to Mr. Phinney stating that he must comply with all uncompleted items by 6/30/89 or he will be found in default; motion seconded by Mrs. Kelly and carried unanimously.

3. Schultz Subdivision - Mr. Wynn reported there remains to be a problem with the swale to the retention basin; seven street trees have been replaced; due to rain, 25% of sod has lifted; landscaper has indicated he will return Tuesday morning to repin it.

4. Pleasant Meadows - Mr. Garis has made a verbal committment that he will take responsibility for 10 trees which have died in Phases 1 and 2 and will pay the cost to have all the trees trimmed and fertilized in Phases 1 and 2. Mr. Pileggi (landscaper of Phases 3 and 4) has agreed to replace those trees at his cost. Mr. Hackett's funds will not need to be utilized, as requested at a previous meeting.

5. Brick's Way - Maintenance period for the roadway expires this week. Mr. Wynn's office has notified Mr. Hackett that the pavement patching over sanitary sewer line needs to be seal coated. Mr. Hackett has indicated in writing that he has notified R & M Contractors to have this work completed.

6. Hickory Hamlet, Phase 1 - Maintenance period expires this week. Locations along swale is still eroded; ponding problem in front of Fetch property at top of the hill. Mr. Hackett has indicated he will be installing a drain in that area to resolve the problem.

7. Sunoco Station, Route 113 - Mr. Wynn suggested to new owners that an access be constructed directly to the Clemen's Shopping Center. New owners have indicated they have no problem with this, provided the township allows this connection. Motion was made by Mrs. Kelly to direct Mr. Wynn to send a letter, allowing this connection; motion seconded by Mr. Bennett and carried unanimously. In answer to Mr. Grunmeier's request, Mr. Wynn indicated he would follow up on a letter to Souderton Mayor Allebach, regarding markings on Route 113.

#### I. SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

1. Mr. Grabowski reported that the Environmental Quality Board has issued new regulations, amending Chapter 71 to the Sewage Facilites Act. Two major changes involve: (1) a 60 day deadline required for municipalities to respond and (2) that the municipality must determine approval of the subdivision prior to DER's consideration. Copies of the new regulations were given to all Supervisors.

2. In order to adhere to EPA guidelines, the Penridge Wastewater Treatment Authority is requesting their municipal customers to adopt a strict ordinance which regulates pre-treatment of industrial waste before they enter into the collection systems. Mr. Grabowski forwarded copies of the proposed ordinance to the Supervisors with his recommended changes. He has also submitted his recommendations to the PWTA. EPA has placed an approximate deadline of July 1, 1989 on PWTA to have all of these ordinances in effect. Motion was made by Mr. Bennett to place a joint notice for East Rockhill, West Rockhill, and Hilltown in the newspaper, advertising the sewer use ordinance for Hilltown's next meeting on June 26, 1989; motion seconded by Mrs. Kelly and carried unanimously.

3. Mr. Grabowski presented a status report on the Blooming Glen Playground Association and the Hilltown High School Alumni Association for conveyance of property to Hilltown. He noted that there has been difficulty getting a sufficient number of members together for a meeting to authorize conveyance of land and that, hopefully, within the next two weeks, meetings will take place.

4. Mr. Grabowski stated that there are many items in Act 170 which should be addressed in the Township's Zoning Ordinance. He noted that the Chairman of the PC has advised it may be some time before a new zoning ordinance is ready for zoning hearings. Mr. Grabowski suggested that amendments be made to the existing ordinance to cover the requirements of Act 170. The Board agreed to allow the Solicitor, Zoning Officer and Planning Commission hold a meeting to review the zoning ordinance and make suggestions in order to conform to Act 170.

Chairman Grunmeier noted that there is a provision in Act 170 to appoint an alternate to the Zoning Hearing Board in the event a member would be unable to attend a meeting. Motion was made by Mrs. Kelly to advertise for a resident of Hilltown Township to serve on the Zoning Hearing Board as an alternate; motion seconded by Mr. Bennett and carried unanimously.

5. Mr. Singley noted that copies of the amendments to the PA Municipalities Planning Code will be forwarded to the Township Solicitor for his review.

J. RESIDENT'S COMMENTS:

1. Earl Sullivan, 234 Upper Church Road, requested an update on the proposed street light for the intersection at Hilltown Pike and Callowhill Road. Mr. Singley answered that the street light has been approved by PP&L; awaiting paperwork for signatures.

2. Robert Grunmeier, II, 32 Hilltown Pike - Mr. Grunmeier stated that he is speaking as the Emergency Management Coordinator for Hilltown Township -- he is reviewing the soil analysis report for the Sunoco Station; also the Patterson Trucking incident. Mr. Grunmeier also stated that he and Mr. Tuttle are working with the County level emergency management commission on the upgrading of the Emergency Management Plan for Hilltown Township. He also noted that they will be meeting with the fire departments which service Hilltown for update of an incident command map.

3. Carmen A. Fenzio, 400 Steeplebush Drive - Mr. Fenzio complained of weeds, deep ditches, and stones on property behind his house and asked who owns the property. Mr. Wynn noted that part of this area is open space which is owned by the Township and a portion is also owned by Mr. Garis; the Board agreed to have the Roadmaster investigate this area. Mr. Fenzio asked if he could purchase any of this ground; Mr. Wynn noted that the zoning ordinance specifies that open space cannot be further subdivided or sold.

K. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Letter regarding transfer taxes - referred to Township Solicitor for his review.

2. The Board was in agreement to allow the Township Manager to send letters supporting bills regarding Tort Reform and State OSHA Regulations and raising bid ceiling from \$4,000 to \$10,000.

3. Pennridge High School Booster - Motion was made by Mr. Bennett to donate \$50.00 for 1/4 page ad in the Pennridge Football Program -- there was no second to this motion. Motion was made by Mrs. Kelly to donate \$90.00 for 1/2 page in the Football Program; motion seconded by Mr. Grunmeier and carried unanimously.

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4. Letter received from Grim & Grim Law Offices, notifying the township of possible traffic hazard on Diamond Street. Copies of the letter were given to the Township Engineer and Roadmaster for their review and investigation.

5. Fire reports received from Dublin, Telford, Souderton and Perkasio Fire Companies.

L. SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS:

1. Mr. Bennett stated he has received several telephone calls regarding petitions for 4-Way Stop signs at two locations on Green Street (Green & Rickert and Green & Fairhill). Chief Egly stated that most people do not stop at 4-Way Stop signs. Mr. Singley stated that this area will be investigated; however, PennDOT does not recommend use of 4-Way stop signs. In answer to Mr. Bennett's question, Mr. Wynn stated that a study must be performed to verify that the intersection meets the warrants of PennDOT for a multi-stop installation, but that PennDOT approval would not be necessary.

2. Mr. Bennett questioned when the 1988 Audit Report would be received. Mr. Singley stated a report was sent to the State prior to March 15th for Liquid Fuel's monies and those monies have been received. However, to date, the Auditor's have not submitted their recommendations as yet.

3. Mr. Bennett questioned when a public auction would be set up for sale of used police vehicles and miscellaneous furniture, etc. Mr. Singley answered that this will most probably occur in July or August and it will be advertised.

4. Mr. Bennett stated he has received several calls from residents regarding the street numbering system and suggested this be included in the forthcoming newsletter. The Board directed the Township Solicitor to draw up an ordinance for a mandatory street numbering system for advertisement to receive the resident's comments.

5. Mr. Bennett asked status of recycling program. Mrs. Kelly stated that she is handling this and that recycling will be mandatory by September 22, 1990 and that recycling is well on its way.

6. Chairman Grunmeier stated that he has received the Audit of 1987 Liquid Fuels by the State Attorney General's office and everything is in order. He also asked for a report from the PC on the progress of the Comprehensive Plan update; also that a copy be submitted to the Supervisors -- Mr. Bennett and Mrs. Kelly agreed.



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7. Chairman Grunmeier stated that the Board had previously discussed the possibility of expanding the Zoning Officer's duties from a part-time to a full-time position. The present Zoning Officer is willing to take on that position full-time starting the week of July 17, 1989. Motion was made by Mrs. Kelly to hire Clarence Myers as a full-time zoning officer as of 7/17/89; motion was seconded by Mr. Bennett. Mr. Bennett questioned whether there would be a need to advertise this position and if the rate of compensation would change. Mr. Grabowski replied that it would not be necessary, legally, to advertise. A vote was taken; motion carried unanimously.

8. Chairman Grunmeier questioned status of Mr. Liptak's property. Mr. Grabowski replied that this case is currently in Bucks County Court.

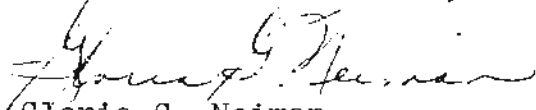
9. Chairman Grunmeier stated that the Board should consider instituting a Risk Management Program for Hilltown Township.

10. Chairman Grunmeier stated he will be at the Township Building on Saturday, June 17th, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM to hear any residents concerns or comments. Other Supervisors are also welcome to join Mr. Grunmeier at this time.

M. PRESS CONFERENCE: A conference was held to answer questions or concerns of those reporters present. Chief Egly warned the residents against "gypsies" who are doing blacktopping of driveways and are preying on senior citizens. He requested that the newspapers warn residents, and especially senior citizens, of this practice.

There being no further business, a motion of adjournment was made by Mr. Bennett at 9:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Gloria G. Neiman  
Township Secretary

Note: These minutes were transcribed from tape recordings and notes taken by Mrs. Lynda Seimes, Assistant Secretary.