

THE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2022

A Regular Business Meeting of the Smithfield Township Board of Supervisors was held on January 26, 2022, at the Smithfield Township Municipal Center at 1155 Red Fox Rd, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301, and via Zoom.

Present are Supervisors Jacob Pride, Robert Lovenheim, Brian Barrett via phone, Solicitor Ronold Karasek, Engineer Jon Tresslar, and Office Manager Julia Heilakka.

Also present are Matthew Muir, Richard Cullen, Maryellen Higgins, Martha Carbone, and Tim Carbone.

1. Chair Jacob Pride calls the meeting to order at 7:04PM. A quorum is present.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance is recited.
3. Announcements – none.
4. Minutes
 - a. Robert Lovenheim motions to accept the January 3, 2022 reorganization and January 11, 2022 minutes, Brian Barrett seconds. Vote: all in favor; minutes accepted.
5. Old Business – none.
6. New Business
 - a. [Item c] Consider: Resolution No. 496 – Opposition to Increased Weight and Sizes of Trucks. Matthew Muir, of Coalition Against Bigger Trucks, believes big trucks are vital to the economy, but is interested in maintaining current weight limits due to safety and road deterioration concerns. Robert Lovenheim motions to adopt Resolution No. 496, Brian Barrett seconds. No public comment. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.
 - b. [Item a] Discuss: Monroe County Open Space & Pocono Mountain Visitors Bureau Grants. The Board discusses both grant opportunities and decides to reuse the Bee Kind Update grant application—for improvements to the community garden and surrounding area—for the MCOS grant, and will use the PMVB grant as a backup if the township does not receive the 1% for Nature grant, a grant for trash enclosures in two parks. If the Township receives the 1% for Nature grant, the Board will reconvene.

- c. [Item b] Discuss: Economic Development Zone Draft Amendment. The Board discusses proposed updates to Section 308.B.3 and decides to reorder the bullets but retain all wording. The Board discusses the acreage and road requirements under Major Mixed-Use Development (MMUD). Car dealerships are confirmed as a conditional use. The Board discusses signage and will alter a sign spacing requirement from 300ft to 225ft and consider other changes later.

Robert Lovenheim motions to formally request reviews from the planning commissions with provisions that the ordinance references the existing code for signage, that roads and the 50-acre requirement under MMUD do not change, and the changes to Section 308 are made as discussed; Brian Barrett seconds. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.

- d. Consider: Approve PennDOT Finding for 2019-2020 Liquid Fuels Audit. The Township accidentally purchased firetruck tires from the Highway Fund because of an unclear invoice. The Township has reimbursed the fund. Robert Lovenheim motions to accept the finding, Brian Barrett seconds. No public comment. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.
- e. Discuss: Godfrey's Ridge. Robert Lovenheim discusses a draft memo he prepared to the owners of Godfrey's Ridge. It is not his intention to proceed with condemnation; he wants the property owner to respond to his inquiries. The property is currently R-1 and could be developed and he would like to see this land protected.

The Board discusses reaching out to the property owner with an offer, and decides to have Ron Karasek send a letter making an offer contingent on grant funding. Robert Lovenheim motions to send the letter, Jacob Pride seconds. Public comment: Tim Carbone believes the letter should be certified, and is against using the threat of condemnation as a cudgel. Robert Lovenheim replies he isn't interested in condemnation, but the property representative stopped communicating. Martha Carbone recognizes the frustration of property owners who don't respond, but doesn't believe the Township should use condemnation as a threat. Robert Lovenheim clarifies the Open Space Committee discussed a Rock Tenn property, not the Godfrey's Ridge property.

Maryellen Higgins is a member of the Open Space Advisory Committee and is frustrated with the concept of condemnation; there is a bad history of condemnation due to the Tocks Island Dam project. Richard Cullen is a member of OSAC and a past member of the Parks and Recreation Commission, and speaks against using condemnation. The Board discusses membership of the commission. Richard Cullen states the commission was frustrated with the Board. Vote: all in favor; motion carries. Jacob Pride states eminent domain and condemnation will not be considered.

7. Bills

- a. Ratify \$8,878.79 (General - \$8,046.96, Highway - \$831.83) and approve \$82,717.12 (General - \$70,393.63, Highway - \$12,323.49). Total: \$91,595.91. Brian Barrett reminds

the public that some legal and engineering bills are reimbursable. Brian Barrett motions to pay the bills, Robert Lovenheim seconds. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.

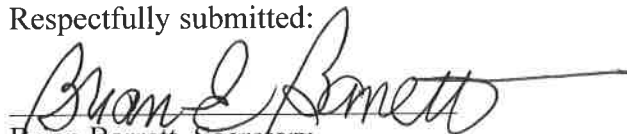
8. Public Comment

- a. Robert Lovenheim asks for an update regarding the Township Auditors. Ron Karasek replies he is sending a letter to the auditors tomorrow to get them to reconvene to set an hourly rate. Robert Lovenheim discusses seniority pay and timesheets. Ron Karasek states if the auditors refuse to meet, the Township can pursue legal remediations. Martha Carbone asks for an overview of the Auditors meeting, and Jacob Pride provides one.

9. Brian Barrett motions to adjourn, Robert Lovenheim seconds; meeting adjourned at 8:45PM.

Minutes recorded by Julia Heilakka

Respectfully submitted:



Brian Barrett, Secretary