

THE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
FEBRUARY 9, 2022

A Regular Business Meeting of the Smithfield Township Board of Supervisors was held on February 9, 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, and Brian Barrett via phone, Solicitor Ronold Karasek, Engineer Jon Tresslar, and Office Manager Julia Heilakka.

Also present are Marv Walton, Pam Barrett, John Petrizzo, George Andrews, and Larry Dymond.

1. Chair Jacob Pride calls the meeting to order at 4:09PM. A quorum is present.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance is recited.
3. Announcements – none.
4. Minutes
 - a. Robert Lovenheim motions to accept the minutes from January 26, 2022, Brian Barrett seconds. Vote: all in favor; minutes accepted.
5. Old Business – none.
6. New Business
 - a. Monroe County Land Bank Presentation: Marv Walton, the administrator of the Monroe County Land Bank, provides a presentation on land bank activities. Land banks acquire properties that are blighted, abandoned, or have liens or title problems, rehabilitate them, and return them to the tax rolls. Municipal efforts to clean up the property must be exhausted before the land bank steps in. Marv Walton shows examples of land bank actions locally and across the state.
 - b. Consider: Adoption of 2022 Budget. The budget was reopened after discussion with the township auditors, and the salaries of elected officials line item was revised by \$5,000. Robert Lovenheim motions to adopt the 2022 Budget, Brian Barrett seconds. No public comment. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.
 - c. Discuss: American Rescue Plan Act Funds Possible Use. Julia Heilakka states the Final Rule from Treasury allows a \$10 million standard loss deduction, and Zelenkofske Axelrod (ZA) recommends taking the standard deduction and using the funds to cover payroll. This action would simplify reporting to Treasury and allow the funds to be used however the Township feels is necessary. Pamela Barrett asks if the public will be involved. Jacob Pride replies that ARPA funds will be discussed at public meetings.

- d. Consider: Marshalls Falls Phase II Statewide LSA Gant Application. Digital gaming revenue has funded a new grant program. Julia Heilakka states that Barry Isett suggests recycling an old grant application because Monroe County already has an LSA program, which may impact the competitiveness of the application. Robert Lovenheim motions to approve Resolution No. 497, Jacob Pride seconds. Vote: all in favor; motion carries. Robert Lovenheim motions to sign the funding commitment letter, Brian Barrett seconds. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.
- e. Consider: Radios for Fire Companies. Jacob Pride states the county commissioners are interested in assisting with the cost of P25 radios for emergency services. The total cost is about \$3.2 million, and one concept for funding includes splitting the cost into thirds, covered by the county, municipalities, and the emergency service. The County wants to determine interest from municipalities. Brian Barrett motions to draft a letter stating Smithfield Township is interested in the project, Robert Lovenheim seconds. No public comment. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.
- f. Consider: Change Order No. 3 – Wellness Park Phase 2. This change order grants an extension of time because of weather and supply chain concerns; there is no increase in cost. Brian Barrett motions to accept Change Order No. 3, Robert Lovenheim seconds. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.
- g. Consider: Authorize Advertisement for Spring Clean Up. Spring Clean Up will occur May 11th to May 15th. Brian Barrett motions to authorize advertisement for Spring Cleanup, Robert Lovenheim seconds. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.
- h. Consider: Close First Baptist Church Escrow - \$2,006.40. Plans and permits for this project have expired, so the township must release their funds. Pam Barrett asks if the township can use the escrow funds to restore the property. Ron Karasek suggests returning the funds. Robert Lovenheim motions to return the First Baptist Church escrow funds, Brian Barrett seconds. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.
- i. Consider: Green Light Go Agreement. Ron Karasek will review the document tomorrow. Robert Lovenheim motions to tentatively approve the Green Light Go Agreement pending solicitor review and approval, Brian Barrett seconds. No public comment. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.
- j. Approve: Transfer of \$26,000.00 to Bond Payment Account. Julia Heilakka states transferring \$26,000 a year into the bond account allows the account to stay solvent. Brian Barrett motions to transfer the funds, Robert Lovenheim seconds. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.

7. Bills

- a. Ratify – Highway Fund: \$12,418.45. Approve - \$103,270.90 (General Fund: \$92,107.07, Highway Fund: \$11,163.83). Total bills: \$115,689.35. Jacob Pride states this is a regular

bill list, including insurance, water testing, repair of a heat system, and insurance premiums for a total of \$115,688.81. Robert Lovenheim motions to pay the bills, Brian Barrett seconds. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.

8. Public Comment

- a. John Petrizzo expresses concerns related to the Gateway and Shawnee Valley PRD (SVPRD) developments regarding road improvements, impacts on school districts, tax incentives, and developers not following through on promises. Pam Barrett expresses concern that Gateway's installation will ruin the school district.

George Andrews, a school board member, states no changes to the TIFF have been approved. There is discussion about the number of residential apartments permitted in the TIFF. Jon Tresslar states no changes have been made to the TIFF; any change must be approved by all parties. Brian Barrett discusses an ESU project that went sour. Pam Barrett states residents can't handle a tax increase.


Larry Dymond discusses the cost of educating children and that the school has \$430-\$440 million in debt and \$100 million in pending repairs. Pam Barrett asks if the TIFF can be altered if Gateway changes their plans. Jacob Pride replies Gateway's approval has not changed and all parties must agree to changes. John Petrizzo believes any developer should upgrade roads their project impacts and announces his candidacy for the 189th legislative district.

- b. Pam Barrett believes the Board acted incorrectly regarding Marshalls Falls. Ron Karasek states the Board acted within the law. Brian Barrett summarizes the purchase of the Marshalls Falls house.
 - c. Pam Barrett states the township humiliated an 87-year-old woman. Ron Karasek states the Board should not discuss personnel matters. Pam Barrett questions the character of Board members.
 - d. Jacob Pride states Pam Barrett's behavior is disgraceful; she consistently threatens staff, writes racist comments, and the township does not deserve this behavior. Ron Karasek states the township has not mismanaged money. Robert Lovenheim states the supervisors have worked well together, and there have been few instances where they don't agree.
9. Jacob Pride motions to recess until 6:00PM for the SVPRD hearing, Robert Lovenheim seconds. No public comment. Vote: all in favor; motion carries; meeting is recessed at 5:37PM.
 10. The Board reconvenes at 6:07PM for the Shawnee Valley PRD hearing. [This hearing was transcribed by Donna Kenderdine Recording.] The Board recesses at 6:52PM and reconvenes at 7:00PM. Robert Lovenheim motions to reconvene the public hearing on March 9, 2022 at 6:00PM, Jacob Pride seconds. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.

11. Robert Lovenheim motions to adjourn, Brian Barrett seconds; all in favor; meeting adjourned at 8:45PM.

Minutes recorded by Julia Heilakka

Respectfully submitted:


Brian Barrett, Secretary