

THE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
APRIL 13, 2022

A Regular Business Meeting of the Smithfield Township Board of Supervisors was held on April 13, 2022, at the Smithfield Township Municipal Center at 1155 Red Fox Rd, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301, and via Zoom.

Present are Supervisors Jacob Pride and Robert Lovenheim (via Zoom), Solicitor Ronold Karasek, Engineer Jon Tresslar, and Office Manager Julia Heilakka. Supervisor Brian Barrett is not present.

Also present are Don Miles, John Donahue, Lynn Swarz, and Trenton Greenzweig.

1. Chair Jacob Pride calls the meeting to order at 4:00PM. A quorum is present.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance is recited.
3. Announcements – none.
4. Minutes
 - a. Robert Lovenheim motions to approve the minutes from the March 23, 2022 regular meeting, Jacob Pride seconds. Vote: all in favor; minutes accepted.
5. Reports
 - a. Solicitor’s Report
 - i. Ron Karasek confirms conditional use fees will be discussed later.
 - b. Engineer’s Report – none.
6. New Business
 - a. Discuss: Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DWGNRA) Park Status. John Donahue and Don Miles present the concept of changing the recreation area into a national park and preserve. The change would only include existing lands and would not result in a toll to pass through the park. Increased traffic and potential resource impacts will occur, but a national park designation will help limit the impacts because of funding availability. They are considering splitting the land to 90% preserve and 10% national park, as well as building a Lenape Education Center. Hunting will not be permitted in the national park, but will be allowed in the preserve.

Donald Miles states the project has received overwhelming support from the public. The closest two national parks to the Poconos are over 300 miles away. DWGNRA receives 4.5 million visitors a year – the same as Yellowstone – and has one third of the operating

budget. If no action is taken, the infrastructure and resources within the park will continue to deteriorate. The park meets the requirements to be a national park, and a preserve is a more accurate description of what occurs at the area now.

Jacob Pride clarifies that hunting is permitted in a preserve, but not a national park. John Donahue does not foresee any direct impacts on Smithfield Township. Robert Lovenheim supports the bid for national park status. John Donahue explains the timeframe for development is uncertain, but they want grassroots support first. DWGNRA plans to ask the township for a letter of support.

- b. Consider: Schedule Conditional Use Hearings. The township received two conditional use applications for used car sales. The hearings must be held by May 16th, and the Planning Commission (PC) reviews the plans tomorrow. The Board will hold both hearings on May 11th at 4PM during the regular meeting. Jacob Pride motions to authorize advertisement for the hearings on May 11th at 4PM at the solicitor's discretion after the PC reviews the plans, Robert Lovenheim seconds. No public comment. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.
- c. Consider: Schedule Economic Development Zone Technical Amendment Ordinance Hearing. Monroe County Planning Commission comments have been addressed. Robert Lovenheim motions to advertise the hearing for April 27th at 7pm, Jacob Pride seconds. No public comment. Vote: all in favor; motion carries. The solicitor will confirm the advertising works.
- d. Discuss: Economic Development Zone Map Change Ordinance. Ron Karasek states this draft can be sent to the planning commissions. Robert Lovenheim motions to authorize planning commission reviews, Jacob Pride seconds. No public comment. Vote: all in favor; motion carries. Jacob motions to advertise the hearing to consider adoption of the ordinance on June 8th at 4pm, Robert Lovenheim seconds. No public comment. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.
- e. Discuss: Noise/Nuisance Ordinance. Robert Lovenheim wants a basic set of rules that provides noise relief from commercial venues, construction noise, and shooting ranges. Remedies would include managing operating hours, keeping shooting ranges indoors, and allowing some negotiation between neighbors. Lynn Swarz feels outside amplified music should be banned or restricted and that noise should end by 10PM on weekends. Jacob Pride suggests a survey to get thoughts from the community. Robert Lovenheim wants a simple solution to noise concerns.
- f. Discuss: Fence Ordinance. The Board has received the draft ordinance and will discuss this at the April 27th meeting.
- g. Discuss: PSATS Convention & Updates. Julia Heilakka is the PSATS' convention township delegate. Jacob Pride opposes PSATS' suggestions for Resolutions 22-19, 22-

23, 22-25, 22-28, 22-29, and 22-48. Jacob Pride motions to provide Julia discretion for voting as she sees fit for other items but to vote against PSATS' recommendations as described, Robert Lovenheim seconds. No public comment. Vote: all in favor; motion carries. Jacob Pride clarifies this applies to the bylaw and nomination reports.

- h. Consider: Spring Clean Up Bid Award. Spring Cleanup is May 11 – 15th. G&S Container Services Inc. was the low bidder at \$1,450 per dumpster. Jacob Pride motions to award the bid to G&S for \$1,450 per dumpster, Robert Lovenheim seconds. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.
- i. Consider: Fee Schedule – Spring Clean Up. Jacob Pride motions to affirm the fee schedule, Robert Lovenheim seconds. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.
- j. Discuss: Fee Schedule – Conditional Uses. Ron Karasek states the way the current fee schedule is written, the township cannot charge for additional costs for conditional use hearings; SALDO fees are confusing and need to be revamped. The Board discusses possible fee structures. The Board decides to set a \$3,000 escrow fee for conditional use hearings with replenishment at \$500. Jacob Pride motions to change the conditional use cost to a \$3,000 escrow with replenishment at \$500, Robert Lovenheim seconds. No public comment. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.
- k. Consider: Purchase of Radar Sign. Julia Heilakka summarizes the ARPA funds reporting process. Robert Lovenheim motions to purchase the radar sign after the ARPA reporting is complete, Jacob Pride seconds. No public comment. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.
- l. Consider: 2022 Contributions. Robert Lovenheim objects to making contributions to PHLT and would like the public to help choose contributions next budget season. Robert Lovenheim motions to approve all contributions except the one to PHLT, Jacob Pride seconds. Jacob Pride states he personally approves of the contribution to PHLT. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.
- m. Consider: Super Heat Maintenance Agreement. Super Heat maintains the township's geothermal system. Jacob Pride motions to renew the contract, Robert Lovenheim seconds. No public comment. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.
- n. Consider: Continuation of Grounds Maintenance Contract. This will be rebid next year, but Strauser can be retained under the same contract. Jacob Pride motions to approve the Strauser contract, Robert Lovenheim seconds. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.
- o. Consider: Resolution No. 500 – Support of America250PA. This resolution supports America's 250th anniversary. Jacob Pride motions to adopt Resolution No. 500, Robert Lovenheim seconds. No public comment. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.

- p. Consider: Municipal Center Masking Policy. Jacob Pride motions to change the township masking policy so that vaccinated visitors are no longer required to wear masks, Robert Lovenheim seconds. No public comment. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.
- q. Consider: Pocono Area Cycling Trails (PACT) Requests. PACT has asked the Board for approval of a sponsorship program at River's Edge. Robert Lovenheim motions to approve the PACT sponsorship program at River's Edge Bike Park, Jacob Pride seconds. No public comment. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.

7. Bills

- a. Ratify: General Fund: \$9,312.50. Approve: \$122,347.00 (General Fund: \$119,337.98, Highway Fund: \$3,009.02). Total: \$131,659.50. Jacob Pride motions to meet the obligations of \$131,659.50, Robert Lovenheim seconds. No public comment. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.


8. Public Comment

- a. Ron Karasek received the verification of mandamus complaint and needs an original signature.
- b. Ron Karasek asks if there are any concerns with the water company bond. The Zoning Officer and Roadmaster have approved the release, and the engineer has no comments, so the bond may be released.

- 9. Robert Lovenheim motions to adjourn, Jacob Pride seconds; meeting adjourned at 5:44 PM.

Minutes recorded by Julia Heilakka

Respectfully submitted:



Julia Heilakka, Assistant Secretary