

THE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
SEPTEMBER 14, 2022

A Regular Business Meeting of the Smithfield Township Board of Supervisors was held on September 14, 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 Zoom), Solicitor Ronold Karasek, Engineer Jon Tresslar, and Township Manager Julia Heilakka.

Also present are Christopher McDermott (Riley Associates), Jonathon Kirkwood, Ed Regina, Leon Prince, Debbie Kulick, Jonathan Kulick.

1. Chair Jacob Pride calls the meeting to order at 6:00PM. A quorum is present.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance is recited.
3. Announcements
 - a. The Board held an Executive Session from 5:33PM – 5:51PM regarding the SVPRD litigation, and there is no action to take.
4. Minutes
 - a. Robert Lovenheim motions to approve the minutes from the August 24, 2022 regular meeting, Jacob Pride seconds. No public comment. Vote: all in favor; minutes accepted.
5. Public Hearing: Shawnee Inn Golf Course Bridge. Ron Karasek reviews the housekeeping items related to the hearing, explains procedures for conditional uses, and begins the hearing at 6:02PM. [This public hearing was transcribed by Donna Kenderdine Recording, LLC.] Robert Lovenheim motions to close the public hearing, Brian Barrett seconds. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.
6. Reports
 - a. Solicitor's Report
 - i. Ron Karasek reminds the Board of the BJK Zoning Change request on September 28, 2022 at 6PM. The Board must schedule a date for the Black Buffalo conditional use.
 - b. Engineer's Report – no report.
7. New Business
 - a. Consider: Consent Agenda.

- i. Accept 2021 Audit and Financial Statements.
- ii. Accept Change Order No. 1 – River Rd Paving Project.
- iii. Accept Change Order No. 5 – Railing for Fishing Pier.

Jon Tresslar states the fishing pier increase of \$1,300 is reasonable and recommends it be approved. Robert Lovenheim motions to approve the consent agenda, Brian Barrett seconds. No public comment. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.

- b. Consider: Shawnee Inn Golf Course Bridge - Conditional Use Hearing. Jon Tresslar states the old proposed bridge was to be posted at 10 tons, but the new metal bridge is structurally sound for 15 tons. Jonathon Kirkwood clarifies that Shawnee requests the new bridge be posted at 15 tons. Robert Lovenheim motions to grant conditional use application and have the weight limit posted at 15 tons. Chris McDermott confirms the motion includes the metal bridge. Jacob Pride seconds. No public comment. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.
- c. Consider: Appoint Second Alternate Agency Open Records Officer. This would appoint a second alternate to the position. Robert Lovenheim motions to appoint Lucas DeBartolo as an Alternate Agency Open Records Officer, Jacob Pride seconds. No public comment. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.
- d. Consider: Split Costs with Delaware Water Gap for Fire Radio Grant. Chief Howard Ike requests funds from the township to for a radio grant application, outfit a new firefighter with equipment, and assist with a repair bill for a total of \$7,301. Jacob Pride states the grant will save the township money, and the township has provided additional funds to other fire companies. Jacob Pride motions to split the costs and fund the match, Robert Lovenheim seconds. No public comment. Vote: Robert Lovenheim and Jacob Pride in favor, Brian Barrett opposed; motion carries.
- e. Discuss: 2022 F-600 Truck Quote. The Board discusses and then decides to purchase outright a truck that was approved for purchase at the Board's August 10, 2021 meeting.
- f. Discuss: Kings Pond Road Culvert. The Township received the required permit from DEP. The roadmaster confirmed his crew will not complete this repair. Jon Tresslar will put together the bid specs and bid out the project for completion in June 2023.
- g. Discuss: DCED LSA Grant. The Board discusses a potential grant for the Waterfront Park House. Jon Tresslar inspected the house and spoke with Tino Nocchi, the township's BCO. The house will be limited to 49 people for occupancy, the building must have water, and outstanding items in Tino's letter should be resolved. Robert Lovenheim will investigate historic grants. For now, the Board will not pursue a DCED LSA grant.
- h. Bushkill Emergency Ambulance. Debbie Kulick states there is a decline in the support from residents for EMS service. Bushkill is the only agency in the county with any

volunteers. 3.23% of residents are subscribing in Smithfield Township, and the average for the coverage area is 1.82%. Middle Smithfield Township currently provides \$16,000 via fuel, an \$8,400 direct payment, and tire assistance. Bushkill has asked MST for additional funds to continue operations, and asks the Board for a \$10,000 donation on a quarterly basis as well as additional funds this year. The Board expresses interest in providing additional funding for Bushkill in 2023 and additional funds for this year.

8. Board of Supervisors

- a. Brian Barrett requests an executive session; he will follow up with Jacob Pride.
- b. Julia Heilakka states that the Zoning Officer has indicated that the welcome sign for Middle Smithfield and Smithfield Townships will not work with the township's zoning. Ron Karasek states that the Board could bring this before the ZHB if they wanted to pursue it.

9. Bills

- a. Approve: \$118,091.31 (General Fund - \$90,252.39, Highway Fund - \$27,838.92). The Board will not currently pay attorney fees for the Board of Auditors' attorney because the Board of Auditors has not followed the correct procedure to appoint the attorney. Brian Barrett motions to approve the bills, Robert Lovenheim seconds. No public comment. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.

10. Public Comment

- a. Vicky Ozgun asks for clarification on the subscription program. Debbie Kulick explains the subscription service.
- b. Martha Carbone makes the township aware of an abandoned car across from the Shawnee Fire House.
- c. Desiree Sienna thanks the township for following up with her Cherry Valley Road concern, and asks about fall leaf pickup for Delaware Water Gap, how the township and borough will work together in the future, and expresses frustration with the borough council. Jacob Pride confirms there is no issue with the union regarding leaf pickup.
- d. Tim Snow asks for clarification on leaf pickup for the borough.
- e. Ron Karasek clarifies that there is a need for intermunicipal agreements if there is an exchange of equipment.
- f. Vicky Ozgun asks about fuel costs for leaf pickup. Julia Heilakka explains that the township spoke to the roadmaster and is considering this cost at approximately \$250 instead of the \$7,000 Middle Smithfield Township charged.

g. Tim Snow asks about the status for the Wellness Center. Ron Karasek replies both appeals were argued in front of the commonwealth court. The township awaits the court's decisions.

h. Vicky Ozgun asks about the status of the lawsuit against the Board of Auditors.

11. Brian Barrett motions to adjourn, Robert Lovenheim seconds; meeting adjourned at 7:39PM.

Minutes recorded by Julia Heilakka

Respectfully submitted:

Julia Heilakka, Assistant Secretary