

THE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
MARCH 22, 2023

A Regular Business Meeting of the Smithfield Township Board of Supervisors was held on March 22, 2023, 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 (via Zoom), Engineer Jon Tresslar (via Zoom), and Township Manager Julia Heilakka.

Also present are John Donahue, Pam Barrett, and Martha Carbone.

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 on March 8, 2023 from 6:40PM – 6:54PM to discuss litigation regarding the Shawnee Preservation Society case.
 - b. There is a Special Meeting on March 27th to consider the adoption of the draft solar and warehouse ordinance.
4. Minutes
 - a. Robert Lovenheim motions to approve the minutes from the March 8, 2023 regular meeting, Brian Barrett seconds. Vote: all in favor; minutes accepted.
5. Reports
 - a. Solicitor's Report
 - i. Ron Karasek discusses the condemnation proceedings for Airstrip Rd. and asks the Board to entertain a motion to authorize him to draft a resolution. The Board voted to approve the cooperation and cost reimbursement agreement at a prior meeting; the Industrial Development Authority also approved the agreement with the addition of a rough cost for the township's proceedings, set at \$15,000.
 - ii. Active litigation for him includes items involving Delaware Water Gap Wellness Center and Shawnee Preservation Society.
 - b. Engineer's Report

- i. Jon Tresslar spoke with Zoning Officer Ken Wolfe and reviewed the application for the Smithfield Animal Hospital expansion. In the future, they have agreed on the correct procedures to follow. The Zoning Officer has already issued building permits, so the best of course of action is for Township to sign SPM and move forward, with the understanding that new projects will have more scrutiny.
- ii. Jon Tresslar met with the attorney for the Schryver case and other township employees. They meet again tomorrow, and the trial starts March 27th at 9AM.

6. New Business

- a. Consider: Adopt Resolution No. 526 – Opposition to DEWA Redesignation as Proposed. Robert Lovenheim will make a motion to deny the resolution but claims no standing for either side. Neither proposal addresses the root problem: the park is underfunded. He discusses a tourist tax that would not affect people driving through the park.

Robert Lovenheim motions to reject Resolution No. 526, Jacob Pride and Brian Barrett second the motion. Pam Barrett asks who wrote it and feels the public should be more informed. John Donahue encourages the township to reject the resolution because it is inaccurate. He provides additional information to the Board for review.

Martha Carbone states development will come to the area no matter what; this is a tourist area, and management is key. She feels the only chance to get more funds is to make the park a national park. Pam Barrett states she supports the national park. Brian Barrett states he strongly favors the national park. Jacob Pride states he wrote the draft based on the supervisor's position from a prior meeting; this has been a great discussion. Vote: all in favor; motion carries: the resolution is rejected.

- b. Consider: Approve Letter of Support for Renaming S*mbo Creek. This proposal was attempted approximately 15 years ago, and has been taken up again. Jacob Pride asks the Board to support the renaming and would like the township to take the lead on the application. Brian Barrett states the creek was named after an Indian princess, though others in the audience contest this. There is discussion over the derogatory nature and origin of the name.

Robert Lovenheim motions to approve the letter of support for renaming the creek, Jacob Pride seconds. Jon Donahue states he researched this when attempting to rename S*mbo Island. He read many stories, but there is no evidence to support the claim that the name belonged to a chief or princess, and he commends the township for supporting the change. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.

- c. Discuss: Non-Governmental Contribution for 2023. The Board discusses current asks by third parties for donations and who the township has historically donated to. The Board has about \$9,000 they can allocate. Robert Lovenheim states the local historical association is trying to fund a new building. Pam Barrett doesn't want the animals to lose

money. The Board will consider this at their next meeting. Jacob Pride motions to table this item, Robert Lovenheim tables. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.

- d. Jacob Pride motions to add a motion to the agenda to direct the solicitor to prepare a resolution and approve the addition of the \$15,000 rough cost amount to the agreement, Robert Lovenheim seconds. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.

Jacob Pride motions to approve the aforementioned item, Robert Lovenheim seconds. No public comment. Vote: all in favor; motion carries. Ron Karasek confirms that the motion has been reaffirmed with the \$15,000 rough cost.

7. Board of Supervisors Report – none.

8. Bills

- a. Approve: \$107,706.00 (General Fund). This bill pack includes one payroll and regular expenses. Robert Lovenheim motions to pay the bills, Brian Barrett seconds. No public comment. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.

9. Public Comment

- a. Pam Barrett states the township is holding funds donated by Berkheimer. Julia Heilakka replies small funds are under review. Pam Barrett states Julia Heilakka does not respond to her emails, she heard Robert Lovenheim is resigning, and that her petition is available.

10. Jacob Pride motions to adjourn, Robert Lovenheim seconds; meeting adjourned at 6:45PM.

Minutes recorded by Julia Heilakka

Respectfully submitted:



Julia Heilakka, Assistant Secretary