

THE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING  
MAY 24, 2023

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A Regular Business Meeting of the Smithfield Township Board of Supervisors was held on May 24, 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 (via Zoom, arrives at 6:26PM), and Brian Barrett (via Zoom), Solicitor Ronold Karasek (via Zoom), Engineer Missy Hutchison, and Township Manager Julia Heilakka.

Also present are Maureen Garrido, Jorge Garrido, Tim Snow, Pam Barrett, Debbie Kulick, Scott Miller, and Kirsten Jones.

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 – none.
4. Minutes
  - a. Jacob Pride motions to approve the minutes from the April 12, 2023 regular meeting. Brian Barrett states he wants comments from Supervisor Lovenheim included in the minutes and has not reviewed the revised version. No second; the motion is dead.
  - b. Brian Barrett states the presence of states troopers should be in the May 10<sup>th</sup> minutes. Julia Heilakka replies their presence is already in the minutes. Brian Barrett motions to table both sets of minutes, Jacob Pride seconds. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.
5. Reports
  - a. Solicitor's Report – Open projects include the Smithfield Gateway LDP, Airstrip Rd condemnation, and Eagle Valley and Shawnee development agreements. The township prevailed in the Water Gap Capital Partners case regarding the denial of the conditional use. This may be appealed to the PA supreme court, but the matter is closed for now.

Desiree Siena asks for clarification on the Water Gap case and Jacob Pride explains.
  - b. Engineer's Report – The fishing pier at Waterfront Park is finally complete.
6. New Business
  - a. Consider: Consent Agenda.
    - i. Consider: Approve Pocono Old Truck Show Special Event Permit.
    - ii. Consider: Award T-512 Bushy Mountain Road 2023 Paving Contract Bid.

iii. Consider: Bond Release – PAWC - Linda Street.

Jacob Pride states bids were as follows: H&K Group - \$346,550.40, Livengood Excavator - \$368,874.00, and Heidelberg Materials NE, LLC - \$360,126.00. Brian Barrett motions to adopt the consent agenda and waive the fee for the Pocono Truck Show, Jacob Pride seconds. No public comment. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.

- b. Consider: 209 Raven's Nest Stormwater Waiver Requests. The applicant wishes to build a house on property with wetlands and requests waivers to build within the wetland buffers. Missy Hutchison explains the waiver requests. Ron Karasek cautions that the township must be careful with these waivers and could consider a bond from the applicant. Maureen Garrido has received relief from the golf course and grantor easements, and has reduced the size of disturbance. She will forward the updated plans to the engineers. Brian Barrett motions to table this item until the next meeting, Jacob Pride seconds. No public comment. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.
- c. Consider: First Energy Pole Yard Expansion. The township engineer has not had the opportunity to review this project yet, it is postponed until June 14<sup>th</sup>.
- d. Discuss: EMS Contributions & Updates. The Board discusses sending EMS contributions now instead of in September. Brian Barrett motions to provide the contributions, Jacob Pride seconds. No public comment. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.
- e. Discuss: Airstrip Rd Condemnation Update. Ron Karasek forwarded a resolution for the declaration of taking for Airstrip Rd. Eminent domain code requires a resolution from the township. Michelle Bisbing states her organization and Attorney Prevoznik both approve of the resolution. Brian Barrett motions to approve Resolution No. 527, Jacob Pride seconds. No public comment. Vote: all in favor; motion carries. Robert Lovenheim arrives via Zoom at 6:26PM.

Robert Lovenheim motions to amend the agenda to include adopting Resolution No. 527, Brian Barrett seconds. No public comment. Vote: all in favor; motion carries. Brian Barrett motions to approve Resolution No. 527, Robert Lovenheim seconds. No public comment. Vote: all in favor; motion carries. Michelle Bisbing thanks the township.

7. Board of Supervisor Report - none

8. Bills

- a. Approve: \$163,257.70 (General Fund - \$163,199.28, Escrow Fund - \$58.42). This includes regular expenses, emergency service contributions, escrow closeout, and one payroll. Robert Lovenheim motions to pay the bills, Jacob Pride seconds. Kirsten Jones asks the contribution the township normally makes to AWSOM be shifted to PAWS.

Jacob Pride clarifies that nongovernmental contributions are not in the bill pack. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.

9. Public Comment

- a. Desiree Siena asks if the committee for donations has been formed. Jacob Pride replies not yet.
- b. Pam Barrett states Parcel 16.8.1.62 is in terrible condition. Robert Lovenheim spoke with KP Patel, who has taken the tenant to court to evict him. Nothing can be done until the court rules. The sign belongs to the Kirkwoods.
- c. Pam Barrett states the Kirkwoods do not get permits for work and there are three vacant houses in the township that should be torn down, two of which are on Mosier's Knob and one on Hollow Rd. She states Ken Wolfe does not do his job.
- d. Robert Lovenheim explains prosecuting illegal short-term rentals takes a minimum of six months. Moving signage to its own chapter will allow the township to fine anyone advertising illegal STRs quickly instead of going through the zoning ordinance process.
- e. Pam Barret states KP Patel is lying about his tenant and that the frisbee golf course and cabin at Waterfront Park are in poor condition. Jacob Pride provides updates for those projects. Pam Barrett states a fence her neighbor built is dangerous and the proposed fence ordinance was too complicated. Julia Heilakka explains that the agreement referenced is only for homeowners wishing to place a fence exactly on the property line.
- f. Pam Barret states Ken Wolfe does not do his job.
- g. Ron Karasek leaves at 6:46PM.

10. Robert Lovenheim motions to adjourn, Jacob Pride seconds; meeting adjourned at 6:47PM.

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Minutes recorded by Julia Heilakka

Respectfully submitted:



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Julia Heilakka, Assistant Secretary