

THE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
AUGUST 23, 2023

A Regular Business Meeting of the Smithfield Township Board of Supervisors was held on August 23, 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, Engineer Missy Hutchison, and Township Manager Julia Heilakka.

Also present are Norm Fish, Tim Snow, Pam Barrett, and Martha Carbone.

1. Chair Jacob Pride calls the meeting to order at 6:08PM. A quorum is present.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance is recited.
3. Announcements – none.
4. Minutes
 - a. Robert Lovenheim states he would like the minutes to be more thorough, as he recalls Pam Barrett stating that he lied about something to do with a wooden floor. The park was in a floodplain and floodway, and the cost of the park was about \$54,000 plus flooring that prevents concussions. He thought the project was a good idea, but it wouldn't work. He states Pam Barrett then remarked on a project proposed by Robert Lovenheim that didn't work either. Robert Lovenheim asks the minutes exactly reflect the conversation. Brian Barrett motions to complete a revision and consider the minutes at the next meeting, Robert Lovenheim seconds. Robert Lovenheim suggests referring to the video to determine what was said. No public comment. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.
5. Reports
 - a. Solicitor's Report
 - i. Approve: Township's Answer to SPS Complaint. Ron Karasek states he prepared an answer to the plaintiff's amended complaint, which must be filed by Monday, August 28th. Robert Lovenheim motions to approve the answer and states this issue dates back to 2005. Jacob Pride seconds. No public comment. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.
 - ii. Consider: Airstrip Rd Amended & Restated Documents. Ron Karasek discusses changes to the final versions of the utilizes easement and cooperation agreements. Ron Karasek recommends approval of the four agreements upon the condition that changes are made per his email of August 23, 2023. Robert Lovenheim motions accordingly, Jacob Pride seconds. Jacob Pride states this is important for economic development in that area. No public comment. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.

- iii. Today, Ron Karasek received a packet from the Township Manager for a Conditional Use by a new company at the Water Gap Wellness property (Parcel 16.9.1.26). The Township Engineer will review the application and then the Township Manager will inform all parties of completeness.
 - b. Engineer's Report – none. Jacob Pride thanks LVL Engineering for reviewing the Act 167 update and preparing the ordinance.
6. New Business
- a. Consider: Consent Agenda.
 - i. Consider: Ratify Advertisement of Joint Meeting – 8/23.
 - ii. Authorize: Advertisement for Ordinance No. 246: Act 167 Update.
 - iii. Approve: Regular Fire Contributions.
 - iv. Authorize: Park Security.

Jacob Pride states the advertisement was for a meeting today that was cancelled. Robert Lovenheim motions to approve the consent agenda, Jacob Pride seconds. No public comment. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.
 - b. Consider: Approve Fish Minor Subdivision. This item was tabled by the applicant via email on August 23, 2023. This will be on the agenda for September 13, 2023.
 - c. Discuss: Timeline for Draft Ordinance No. 246. This ordinance is not required to go before the Monroe County Planning Commission; after discussion, the Board will consider this ordinance at the September 27th meeting.
 - d. Consider: Authorize Administrative Coordinator Job Description. Jacob Pride states the job description does not have a salary because he would like to consider candidates with different levels of experience; the township needs additional administrative staff and zoning assistance. Robert Lovenheim motions to approve, Jacob Pride seconds. No public comment. Vote: all in favor; motion carries. [see Item 6.f]
 - e. Discuss: Rename the Creek Update. The Township is working to rename the S*mbo Creek and two other derogatorily named water bodies present in Smithfield Township. Julia Heilakka met with Lake Valhalla representatives and will reach out to the local schools once classes begin. Robert Lovenheim states the creeks' names were supposedly from a chief or princess, but there is no evidence to prove that.
 - f. [Return to item 6.d - Authorize Administrative Coordinator Job Description] Brian Barrett states he would like to return to the administrative coordinator position. Brian Barrett recants his "yes" vote from this item; motion still carries.
7. Board of Supervisors' Report – none.
8. Bills: \$603,892.12 (General Fund: \$261,892.12 - Liquid Fuels Fund: \$342,000.00 - Escrow Fund: \$0). This bill pack is abnormally large because of paving for Brushy Mountain Rd and

a payment to Kobalt Construction. Robert Lovenheim motions to approve the bills, Brian Barrett seconds. No public comment. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.

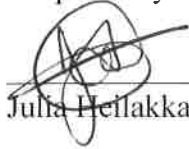
9. Public Comment

- a. Pam Barrett asks if Jacob Pride is in charge of the parks because the garden is a disgrace. Jacob Pride states the garden is being worked on. Pam Barrett states the beehives are missing and he took money for them. Jacob Pride replies the project is underway. Pam Barrett asks why the garden was let go. Jacob Pride replies it has been like this for multiple years before he took office. Pam Barrett replies he is wrong.
- b. Pam Barrett states the farmhouse needs care and the new garden is full of weeds. Robert Lovenheim states he has been trying to track down the three houses in derelict condition on Mosiers Knob Rd and asks her for addresses to the properties. Pam Barrett states the properties are so dilapidated they don't have addresses. Robert Lovenheim replies the Zoning Officer cannot investigate if he has nowhere to go. Pam Barrett states the State Police know where one is because someone shot himself there. Robert Lovenheim states some properties may be in the PRD, and the township does not control those. Pam Barrett states they are not in the PRD. Robert Lovenheim asks where the properties are. Pam Barrett states they are on Mosier's Knob and asks about the Goldsmith property. Robert Lovenheim replies it is owned by the people who own the PRD, it may or may not be in the PRD. Pam Barrett states the owners should remove the house. Robert Lovenheim states he knows the owners discussed doing something with the property but nothing has happened; the question remains if the property is in the PRD.
- c. Pam Barrett asks if the township will do anything about properties with high grass; there are vacant properties in Shawnee with grass up to her knees. Jacob Pride states Middle Smithfield just adopted a property maintenance ordinance, and hopefully the new position will allow additional enforcement.
- d. Pam Barrett states the township should reevaluate parks; everyone is using them, the township is putting a lot of money into parks, and they are getting trashed. The township should have green space. Jacob Pride states the township has green space, but the issue is making sure the township has sufficient people, which is why the Board authorized using the constables' services. The Township switched from Corporate Protective Services. Pam Barrett states the township is using Jacob Pride's brother. Jacob Pride replies the township is not using his brother. Joseph DeBartolo, Lucas DeBartolo's brother, is one of the constables in the association, and watched the parks during the Fourth of July holiday. Pam Barrett states Easton hired security to check residency before they permit people on a path because it was being ruined; the township is throwing money away. Jacob Pride replies Stroud has that policy and they are struggling to keep it up.
- e. Pam Barrett states Nancy Pierce wants a bell back that was attached to the schoolhouse; Ed took it down to prevent it from being stolen. Jacob Pride replies Ms. Pierce should contact the township directly. Pam Barrett confirms she should ask Nancy Pierce to write a letter to the Township. Jacob Pride would like to hear from Nancy Pierce directly. Pam Barrett states she sits here and makes stuff up. Jacob Pride replies she is fantastic at that.

- f. Martha Carbone states she did not see security at the parks over Fourth of July. Jacob Pride replies they were going between Minisink Park and Marshalls Falls. Martha Carbone replies the parks were trashed. Jacob Pride agrees; the roadcrew helped pick up garbage. Security is typically present on major holidays. Martha Carbone discusses concerns regarding the park, swimming, and people's lack of ability to pick up their own trash. Pam Barrett states dirt bikes were riding through Waterfront Park.
 - g. Pam Barrett states things are changing and the world is a nasty place, as Jacob Pride knows by the comment he made about her. Tim Snow states Jacob Pride called the county clerk a hack and Robert Lovenheim spoke poorly of the commissioners. Pam Barrett states John Moyer would run around Jacob Pride so fast he would never know. Jacob Pride replies he has decent relationships with the county commissioners.
 - h. Tim Snow asks if there is any follow up on the Wellness Center. Jacob Pride states the application seems to be a second attempt at what was denied previously. Tim Snow asks about the triaxles of dirt. Julia Heilakka replies she hasn't heard from the Zoning Officer, but will speak to him. Jacob Pride appreciated the heads up on the break ins.
 - i. Tim Snow states his opinion of Jacob Pride has changed because he called the county clerk a hack. Jacob Pride replies that they are not supporting the fire companies on something they promised a long time ago and are adding unnecessary bureaucratic paperwork. Tim Snow would like to hear what they have to say, and doesn't feel it's appropriate to call the county clerk a hack. Pam Barrett states Jacob Pride called her a 70-year-old woman. Jacob Pride states that if the township told everyone in the room everything she has called them. Pam Barrett interrupts and states please do.
10. Robert Lovenheim motions to adjourn, Jacob Pride seconds; meeting adjourned at 6:43PM, and the Board will enter Executive Session.

Minutes recorded by Julia Heilakka

Respectfully submitted:



Julia Heilakka, Assistant Secretary