

THE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
JANUARY 2, 2024

A Regular Business Meeting of the Smithfield Township Board of Supervisors was held on January 2, 2024, 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 Michael Albert, Solicitor Ronold Karasek, Engineer Jon Tresslar, and Township Manager Julia Heilakka.

Also present are Vicky Ozgun, Patricia Owen, Pam Barrett, Brett Cartwright, Patricia Zito, Phil Zito, Raymond Piez, Teresa Piez, Jean Turn, and Juliette Carnes.

1. Chair Jacob Pride calls the meeting to order at 6:13PM. A quorum is present.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance is recited.
3. Announcements – none.
4. Minutes
 - a. Robert Lovenheim motions to table the minutes from the December 13 and 20, 2023 regular meetings, Jacob Pride seconds. No public comment. Vote: all in favor; minutes tabled.
5. Reports
 - a. Solicitor’s Report – none.
 - b. Engineer’s Report – none.
6. New Business
 - a. Consider: Authorize Bond Payment. This is the general obligation bond, with an interest payment of \$17,711.25 and a principal payment of \$205,000.00, for a total of \$222,711.25. Jacob Pride motions to approve the bond payment, Michael Albert seconds. No public comment. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.
 - b. Consider: Adopt Resolution No. 543 – Disposition of Records. This conforms with the PA Municipal Records Manual. Robert Lovenheim motions to adopt Resolution No. 543, Jacob Pride seconds. No public comment. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.
 - c. Consider: Appoint Two Planning Commission Members with terms to Expire January 3, 2028. The Board considers two letters of interest and other recommendations for the positions. Jacob Pride motions to table this item until the January 10th meeting, Michael Albert seconds. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.

7. Board of Supervisors' Report none.
8. Bills – none.
9. Public Comment
 - a. Robert Lovenheim asks the audience about the new arrangement for the meeting room. The audience approves of the new set up.
 - b. Vicky Ozgun expresses concern about wetlands in Lake Valhalla. Robert Lovenheim states the new Conservation & Recreation Director is researching the situation and will conduct a water study. There is a property with wetlands on it for sale, and the Board is considering purchasing it to preserve the wetlands and improve water quality and the environmental habitat for the lake. Vicky Ozgun asks if the Township will eminent domain the property if someone else buys it; there are bog turtles on the property. Robert Lovenheim replies the Township would need to talk to the new owner. Michael Albert asks why the Township would buy the property if it is swamp and undevelopable. Robert Lovenheim replies that an irresponsible owner could damage the lake. He wants to pursue grants to purchase the land. Pam Barrett asks how the Township justifies buying property in a private community. Robert Lovenheim replies this would be for conservation, not a recreational, developed park. Vicky Ozgun asks for the appraisal and what the land is valued at. Robert Lovenheim replies it ranges from \$3,500 - \$7,500 per acre.
10. Robert Lovenheim motions to adjourn, Jacob Pride seconds; meeting adjourned at 6:29PM.

Minutes recorded by Julia Heilakka

Respectfully submitted:



Julia Heilakka, Township Secretary