

THE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING - JULY 24, 2024 AT 6:00PM

A Regular Business Meeting of the Smithfield Township Board of Supervisors was held on July 24, 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, Administrative Coordinator Dyana Salvi, and Township Manager Julia Heilakka.

Also present are Brett Cartwright, Pat Owens, Tara Freeman, Tammy Booth, Cathy Colleta, Mark Solvano, Peter Laidler, Kristine Karol, Korin Amir, Tara Mezzanotte, Pete Begley, Marguerite Vecchio, Lynn Schwartz, JoAnn Norris, and Martha Carbone.

1. **Chair Jacob Pride calls the meeting to order at 6:04PM.** A quorum is present.
2. **The Pledge of Allegiance is recited.**
3. **Announcements**
 - a. There was a Standing Executive Session on 7/24/24 from 5:31PM to 6:00PM regarding personnel for public works, and Back 9MX litigation.
 - b. The Board of Supervisors held an Emergency Meeting on 7/16/2024 regarding Township Parks.
 - c. The Board of Supervisors Meeting schedule changes to the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:00PM effective in August: Upcoming meeting dates are August 13th and 27th.

4. Minutes

a. Regular Meeting of June 26, 2024.

Robert Lovenheim motions to table the minutes from the June 26, 2024, regular meeting, Michael Albert seconds. Vote: all in favor; minutes tabled.

5. Bills & Obligations

- a. Ratify: 7/10/2024 - \$73,220.82 (General Fund: \$55,674.95, Escrow Fund: \$5,913.55, Capital Improvement Grant Fund: \$11,632.32).
- b. Consider: 7/24/2024 - \$110,939.96 (General Fund: \$101,447.17, Escrow Fund: \$9,492.79).

Robert Lovenheim motions to approve the bills, Michael Albert seconds. Michael Albert clarifies the HR portion is missing from the bill pack. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.

6. Reports

- a. **I-80/611 Report** - Tara Mezzanotte states there have been meetings held with PennDOT, Congressman Cartwright, and the National Park Service. There will be no alterations to the slope; fences will be utilized to prevent rockfall onto the roadway. A permit is being obtained for further development. The current pending projects include I-80 EB Retaining Wall Replacement, I-80 WB Rockfall Mitigation, 611 Rockfall Mitigation, 611 Retaining Wall Rehab, and 611 Retaining Wall Replacement.

Pat Owens asks if letters are needed from the public, Tara Mezzanotte encourages thanking local representatives online. Brett Cartwright clarifies the Appalachian Trail is historically registered. Pete Begley asks if the Supreme Court's Chevron Decision was considered, Tara Mezzanotte states it was not. Jacob Pride leaves the meeting from 6:20PM-6:21PM.

- b. **Solicitor's Report** - Ronold Karasek states he reviewed the 3 Point Garden Estates Major Subdivision. Julia Heilakka received an extension of time for Verizon Wireless. He discussed the Board of Supervisors emergency meeting and park admission policy. He reviewed the ZHB Back 9MX decision, an injunction was prepared. He worked on the Healthy Minds decision and the Karol petition of invalidating Ordinance No. 238. Lastly, he prepared the solicitors' report and bill.

- c. **Engineer's Report** - Jon Tresslar states he has worked on Wellness Park, with no concerns of habitats, and met with the Conservation District with suggestions for revisions, which will be resubmitted. River's Edge Bike Park is under review. Airstrip Road is almost complete, with Vigon undergoing inspections. He had a meeting regarding Westfield Commons. The master site plan with DCNR is resolved.

Marguerite Vecchio clarifies the review for River's Edge Bike Park, Jon Tresslar states it was the Conservation District. Tara Freeman clarifies they are working on drainage. Jon Tresslar states there will soon be open public meetings. Marguerite Vecchio confirms the bike park location and expresses safety concerns.

- d. **Township Manager's Report** - Julia Heilakka states the Township received a \$40,000 grant to remove the house at Marshalls Falls. The Township received a \$340,000 reimbursement check from DCED for Marshalls Falls Phase 1. Robert Lovenheim clarifies another parking lot will be added with the removal of the house.

- e. **Supervisors' Comments** - Jacob Pride thanks the members who helped with Marshalls Falls and Minisink Park. The park fees brought in \$1,780 with 356 people admitted; 3,500 people were turned away. Martha Carbone clarifies the timeframe of collection.

Tara Freeman states there were people avoiding paying the fees, Michael Albert states it is a work in progress. The Board discusses future possibilities. Brett Cartwright suggests an honor system. Lynn Schwartz clarifies the fee amount. JoAnn Norris confirms the number of visitors. Martha Carbone states she attended the park.

7. Old Business

a. Discuss: Park Security.

Michael Albert states there were new signs added to the parks in English and Spanish and welcomes any suggestions for maintenance. JoAnn Norris states there were people swimming in the parks.

b. Discuss: Road Safety Measures.

Robert Lovenheim states the safety standards within the Townships HOA's are not regulated; he asks for a standard way to regulate private roads. There was a meeting with an attorney who was involved in HOAs, with suggestion for the Township to take an easement to promote HOA safety. Ronold Karasek confirms this is a possibility with a well written contract. Jon Tresslar states it could help clarify standards.

Michael Albert asks about updates to 209 projects. Jacob Pride states PennDOT received money for an urgent task. There is discussion about getting approval to receive funds to complete the rest of 209 by Smithfield Gateway. Ronold Karasek describes inspections that can be done.

Pat Owens asks if PennDOT could provide a presentation to the Township. Jacob Pride describes this may be a possibility, however the job is contracted out. JoAnn Norris and Martha Carbone describe concerns for the traffic light. Julia Heilakka will reach out to check the light status. Brett Cartwright provides an update on Gap View Drive; he describes it as a safety hazard and asks for proper road markings and signage. Kristine Karol asks what is being done for road safety. Jacob Pride states the Township Director of Public Works regulates the roads and has reached out to PennDOT. Brett Cartwright describes having a bike lane.

8. New Business

a. Consider: Approve Consent Agenda

- i. Consider: Approve Proposal regarding Marshalls Falls Park Mowing.
- ii. Consider: Ratify Approval of Separation Agreement with Lois Turr.
- iii. Consider: Acknowledge Adoption of Resolution No. 562 Establishing Fees for Out of State Residents at Minisink Park & Marshalls Falls Park.

- iv. Consider: Ratify Filing of Answer to the Petition for Karol v. Smithfield Township.
- v. Consider: Ratify Filing of Preliminary Injunction regarding Back9MX.
- vi. Consider: Appoint Chris Clause as Alternate Delegate to Oak Grove Multi-Municipal Compost Processing Board.
- vii. Consider: Award Materials Bid to Eureka Stone Quarry, Inc.

Robert Lovenheim motions to approve the consent agenda, Michael Albert seconds. Ronold Karasek states he is awaiting information from the SEO regarding the injunction for Back 9MX. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.

The Board discusses the new draft ordinance regarding Bed and Breakfasts. Kristine Karol clarifies the draft ordinance is available on the website.

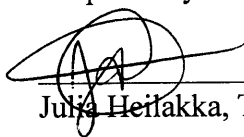
9. Public Comment

- a. Peter Laidler states the recent change in zoning district for Stroudsburg Pocono Airport Inc from R-1 to M-1 is unfavorable to adjacent neighbors. Kristine Karol clarifies posting requirements. Ronold Karasek states the zoning change requirements. Korin Amir states they were unaware of the change. Robert Lovenheim leaves the meeting from 8:07PM to 8:08PM.
- b. Tammy Booth describes the recent noise ordinance, stating enforcement is needed. Kristine Karol asks for a plan for enforcement.
- c. Mark Solvano clarifies certification measures for the sound meter.
- d. Cathy Kulesza clarifies the appeal process.
- e. Brett Cartwright asks for consideration to turn Buttermilk Falls into a Township Park.

10. Michael Albert motions to adjourn, Robert Lovenheim seconds; meeting adjourned at 8:20PM.

Minutes recorded by Dyana Salvi

Respectfully submitted:



Julia Heilakka, Township Secretary