

SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING – NOVEMBER 12, 2024, AT 6:00PM

A Regular Meeting of the Smithfield Township Board of Supervisors was held on November 12, 2024, at the Smithfield Township Municipal Center at 1155 Red Fox Rd, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301, and via Zoom.

Present are Supervisors Jacob Pride, Michael Albert, and Robert Lovenheim, Engineer Jon Tresslar, Solicitor Ronold Karasek, Administrative Coordinator Dyana Salvi, Finance Director Bonnie Winters, Conservation & Recreation Director Alex Jackson, and Township Treasurer Frank Cefali.

Also present are Brett Cartwright, Tim Snow, Tara Vecchio-Freeman, Margurite Vecchio, Pat Owens, Jean Turn, Pam Barret, Kristine Karol, and Vicky Ozgun.

1. **Chair Jacob Pride calls the meeting to order at 6:02PM.** A quorum is present.
2. **The Pledge of Allegiance is recited.**
3. **Announcements:**
 - a. The Board held a Standing Executive Session from 5:35PM to 5:51PM regarding property matters and litigation for Back9MX.
 - b. Trunk or Treat & Fall Fest was a success. Thank you for your support and participation!
 - c. Fall leaf Collection is through December 1st.
 - d. First Energy Road Closure - River Rd between Hollow Rd and Waring Dr from November 19th through 20th. Rain dates are November 21st and 22nd.

4. Minutes: Regular Meeting of October 22, 2024

Michael Albert motions to approve the minutes, Robert Lovenheim seconds. Vote: all in favor; minutes accepted.

5. Bills & Obligations: \$181,182.83

- a. Ratify: \$37,367.31 (General Fund: \$37,367.31).
- b. Consider: 11/12/2024 - \$143,815.52 - (General Fund: \$68,123.02, Escrow Fund: \$71.25, Capital Improvement Grant Fund: \$15,621.25, Fire Tax: \$60,000.00)

Robert Lovenheim motions to approve the bills, Michael Albert seconds. Michael Albert asks for clarification regarding fire company payments. Bonnie Winters states the payment is an allocation for their insurance; the Township released funds. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.

6. Reports:

- a. Solicitors Report- Ronold Karasek states he attended two meetings in October and had two oral arguments for Kristine Karol and the Mountain Manor case. He filed the legal complaint for the Ellis property.

JoAnn Norris asks for any update with Ted Hunter, Ronold Karasek states there have been no updates.

- b. Engineers Report- Jon Tresslar states there has been work with Vision Loss Trail, Green Mountain Drive bridge, and River's Edge Bike Park. He met with Robert Lovenheim to discuss roads in Twin Lakes Estates. Michael Albert asks for progress at SR 447 and SR 209. Jon Tresslar states it's pending PennDOT review. Kristine Karol asks if there has been progress on Healthy Minds, Jon Tresslar states there was. Tara Vecchio-Freeman asks for information regarding River's Edge Bike Park. Marguerite Vecchio asks for more information. Michael Albert states there is a survey open to the public for the parks future.
- c. Township Managers Report- None.
- d. Environmental Advisory Council- Brett Cartwright states they visited the Pen Argyl waste facility, where they are implementing a recycling program.
- e. I-80/SR 611 Report- Jacob Pride states there were concerns with the light. Tim Snow states they are now resolved.
- f. Supervisors Comments- Jacob Pride states the Township was awarded \$175,000 from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program through DCNR.

7. Old Business

- a. Discuss: Data Center Criteria. Alex Jackson shares the updated standards and criteria for Data Centers and asks the Board for their input. Michael Albert emphasizes the importance of having standards. Ronold Karasek states that the public could object to standards if there are concerns of health, safety, and welfare. Alex Jackson describes criteria and standards that need to be addressed. Pat Owens asks for updated information for Data Centers. Brett Cartwright states environmental concerns. Jon Tresslar states concern for water use. Alex Jackson reads criteria for environmental protection. The Board describes implementing conditional use. Kristine Karol states concern for residential districts bordering conditional uses. Pat Owens states concern for environmental impacts. Robert Lovenheim states concern for future land use.

Michael Albert motions to table the discussion, Robert Lovenheim seconds. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.

- b. Consider: Continue Smithfield Township Affiliation with Brodhead Watershed Association.

Robert Lovenheim motions to table the consideration, Michael Albert seconds. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.

c. Discuss: Potential Transient Business Ordinance Revisions.

Michael Albert motions to table the discussion, Robert Lovenheim seconds. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.

8. New Business:

a. Consider: Approve Consent Agenda

i. Consider: Ratify Reprint of Cabin Per 2024 Capital Improvements Budget.

ii. Consider: Green Light GO Pay Application No. 4.

iii. Consider: Ratify Special Event Permit - Meat Sale.

iv. Consider: Approve Beekeeping Form.

v. Consider: Accept 2023 Township Audit.

vi. Consider: File Green Mountain Dr Easements.

Robert Lovenheim motions to approve the consent agenda, Michael Albert seconds. Vote: all in favor; motion carries. Bonnie Winters states the Smithfield Sewer Authority changed their means of accounting; the 2023 audit is showing a finding. Jacob Pride asks for an amended motion, to recuse consideration v.

Michael Albert motions to approve the consent agenda, excluding item v, Robert Lovenheim seconds. JoAnn Norris clarifies easements for Green Mountain Drive. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.

Jacob Pride motions to table item v, Robert Lovenheim seconds. Kristine Karol questions the accounting methods. The Board emphasizes the importance of removing the findings from the audit, and plans to revisit the discussion. Jean Turn asks if minor findings are acceptable. Vote: all in favor; item tabled.

The Board pauses the meeting 7:40PM-7:45PM.

b. Discuss FY 2025 Budget. Jacob Pride discusses the adoption of the budget, stating the Board's emphasis on a \$0 increase. Bonnie Winters discusses the 2025 budget summary. Pam Barret states that Jacob Pride needs to do more as chairman, and that Robert Lovenheim is not qualified. Jean Turn describes the paving project Robert Lovenheim is investigating. Tara Vecchio-Freeman confirms there is no increase in the budget. Kristine Karol asks if the 2023 budget is available to review, the Board

states it will after it is approved. Jacob Pride states the budget will be discussed at the December 19, 2024, regular meeting.

- c. Discuss: Audit and Sewer Authority for FY2024.
- d. Consider: Letter of Support for Pocono Mountains Industries PennDOT MTF Application – re: Smithfield Gateway. Jacob Pride recuses himself.

Robert Lovenheim motions to approve the letter of support, Michael Albert seconds. Vote: Robert Lovenheim and Michael Albert in favor; Jacob Pride abstains: motion carries.


9. Public Comment

- a. Brett Cartwright asks if there is an emergency forest fire plan. Jacob Pride states the Township has one that corresponds with the county. Brett Cartwright emphasizes concerns for the Gap View Drive intersection.
- b. Vicky Ozgun asks for an update on wetlands. Jacob Pride describes the current status.

10. Adjournment: Robert Lovenheim motions to adjourn, Jacob Pride seconds. Kristine Karol asks for details regarding Healthy Minds. Jon Tresslar states it will be discussed at the next Planning Commission meeting. Vote: all in favor; meeting adjourned at 8:36 PM.

Minutes Recorded by Dyana Salvi

Respectfully submitted,



Julia Heilakka, Township Secretary