

SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING – MAY 13, 2025 AT 6:00PM

A Regular Meeting of the Smithfield Township Board of Supervisors was held on May 13, 2025, 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 Missy Hutchison, and Township Manager Julia Heilakka.

Also present are Dan Booth, Brett Cartwright, Wanda DeYong, Kristine Karol, Cathy Kulesza, Debbie Kulick, Tara Mezzanotte, Pat Owens, Ed Regina, Lynn Schwarz, Tim Snow, Jean Turn, Marguerite Vecchio, Tara Vecchio Freeman, and Jonathan Weber.

- 1. Chair Jacob Pride calls the meeting to order at 6:00PM.**
- 2. The Pledge of Allegiance is recited.**
- 3. Announcements**
 - a. The Board held an executive session on May 13, 2025, from 5:10PM – 5:54PM regarding Back9MX, personnel, security, and property acquisition.
- 4. Minutes:**
 - a. None.
- 5. Bills & Obligations:**
 - a. Ratify: \$50,448.13 (General Fund: \$48,248.13, Escrow Fund: \$2,200.00).
 - b. Consider: 5/13/2025 – \$70,693.72 (General Fund: \$68,853.92, Escrow Fund: \$1,839.80).

Robert Lovenheim motions to approve the bills, Michael Albert seconds. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.
- 6. Reports:**
 - a. Solicitor's Report. Solicitor Karasek spent this month working on Mountain Manor litigation, attending the Planning Commission meeting, reviewing the Water Gap LDP, and replying to a number of various emails.
 - b. Engineer's Report. Missy Hutchison reviewed the Smithfield Sewer Authority and Water Gap Wellness LDPs, and work is progressing on the Vision Loss Trail.
 - c. Township Manager's Report. Julia Heilakka states the Township was not awarded a PMVB grant but is pursuing other grants.

- d. Environmental Advisory Council Report. Pat Owens discusses the EAC's priorities: water quality, conservation and ecosystem management, sustainable practices, public education and outreach, evaluation of submitted plans, and preservation of peace quiet natural beauty and scenic viewsheds. The EAC would like the Board to consider purchasing Buttermilk Falls. Brett Cartwright requests the Board consider posting QR codes throughout the Township for resident feedback. The Board discusses Buttermilk Falls. Pat Owens states the EAC will place an article in the Township newsletter.
- e. I-80/SR 611 Report. Tara Mezzanotte states the retaining wall is delayed. She continues to garner support for the inclusion of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area as a pilot for the EXPLOR Act program; the Monroe County Commissioners provided a letter of support. She has not heard from PennDOT regarding the SR 611 project, and the Northampton County Council Committee will meet Thursday to consider the EXPLOR Act resolution. Robert Lovenheim and Tara Mezzanotte discuss the possibility of a tunnel for I-80 and that USDOT makes the final decision on construction.
- f. Supervisors' Comments.
 - i. Jacob Pride states Spring Cleanup was successful. He attended the PSATS Annual Convention and received insight on case management software.
 - ii. Michael Albert also attended PSATS and attended many sessions. He learned that affordable housing is a statewide issue.

7. Old Business:

- a. None.

8. New Business:

a. Consider: Approve Consent Agenda.

- i. Ratify: Approve Special Event Permit – Meat Sale.
- ii. Consider: Approve Special Event Permit – 5th Annual Olde Truck Show.
- iii. Consider: Appoint Robert Lovenheim to Oak Grove Multi-Municipal Compost Processing Board.

Robert Lovenheim motions to approve the consent agenda, Michael Albert seconds.
Vote: all in favor; motion carries.

b. Public Hearing: Liquor License Transfer Request – WGDD, LLC.

The hearing begins at 6:28PM. Wanda DeYong, owner of Wander Inn Bar and Grill, proposes to transfer license R-2066 to 2080 Milford Rd. This public hearing is transcribed by Donna Kenderdine Recording. Jonathan Weber, landlord for 2080 Milford Rd, supports the application. Brett Cartwright discusses proximity restrictions. Robert

Lovenheim motions to close the public hearing at 6:36PM, Michael Albert seconds. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.

c. Consider: Resolution No. 595 – Liquor License Transfer Request – WGDD, LLC.

Robert Lovenheim motions to approve Resolution No. 595, Michael Albert seconds. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.

9. Public Comments:

- a.** Brett Cartwright discusses the status of data centers, how the Township likes the new Zoning Officer, and litigation fees related to Mountain Manor/Back9MX. Julia Heilakka lists current and pending ordinance updates. Ron Karasek confirms the Township is responsible for its solicitor costs during litigation.
- b.** Jonathan Weber discusses a possible affordable housing project on Milford Rd and asks about the zoning ordinance.
- c.** Tim Snow, Kristine Karol, and Brett Cartwright discuss Water Gap Wellness's (Parcel 16.9.1.26) alleged use as an inn. Julia Heilakka states the Township submitted a Right-to-Know request to Monroe County for hotel tax information, but was denied based upon the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights.

10. Adjournment: There being no other business before the Board, Jacob Pride motions to adjourn, Robert Lovenheim seconds. Vote: all in favor; meeting adjourned at 6:51PM.

Minutes Recorded by Julia Heilakka

Respectfully submitted,



Julia Heilakka
Township Secretary