

SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING – FEBRUARY 11, 2026, AT 6:00PM

A Regular Meeting of the Smithfield Township Board of Supervisors was held on February 11, 2026, 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 Jessica Hodge, and Township Manager Julia Heilakka.

Also present are Elisa Byrne (via Zoom), Chris Cooksey (via Zoom), Todd Dailey, Danica Hartenfels, Zak Klaptosky, Debbie Kulick, Kati Machovsky, Tara Mezzanotte, Todd Moser, Vicky Ozgun, Jennifer Peck, Joe Roncelli (via Zoom), and Justin Stangl (via Zoom).

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 February 6, 2026, from 2:38PM to 3:10PM regarding litigation in the M. Manor/Back 9 Matter.

4. Consider: Consent Agenda.

- a. **Consider: Approve January 28, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes.**
- b. **Consider: Approve Bill Pack: \$123,674.11 (General: \$122,044.11 & Professional Escrow \$1,630.00).**
- c. **Consider: Approve PMRS Agreement Extension and Update.**
- d. **Consider: Adopt Resolution No. 617 – Amending the Non-Uniform Pension Plan.**

Robert Lovenheim motions to approve the consent agenda, Michael Albert seconds. Michael Albert asks about the salt budget. Kati Machovsky asks for clarification on general fund versus professional escrow accounts. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.

5. Reports:

- a. **Emergency Services** – Debbie Kulick reports Bushkill EMS fielded 298 calls in January.
- b. **Solicitor** – Ron Karasek reports he met with the Zoning Officer regarding the Water Gap appeal and prepared a brief for the Township. He worked on the M. Manor Stipulation, and reviewed the sign ordinance and high-density housing amendment.
- c. **Engineer** – Jon Tresslar reports he worked on the high-density housing amendment and had correspondence with PennDOT regarding the Post Office Road Bridge weight limit. Todd Dailey asks if the weight restriction would be a legal issue for the Township. Michael Albert says the Township has repaired the bridge to its previous capacity.

- d. **Township Manager** – Julia Heilakka reports that Post Office Road Bridge is now open and has been plowed and salted.
- e. **I-80/SR 611** – Tara Mezzanotte reports there is no new information regarding SR 611 or I-80. She updates the Board about the Explore Act and gives information regarding a virtual meeting on February 19, 2026, at 4PM regarding the proposed Amtrack line. She asks if the Board is interested in appointing her as the Smithfield Township liaison to Amtrack. Todd Dailey asks about the proposed route.
- f. **Environmental Advisory Council** – None.
- g. **Supervisors' Comments** – None.

6. Old Business: None.

7. New Business:

a. Consider: Approve Match Commitment Letter for 1 for Nature Grant Application.

Julia Heilakka details the grant proposal, which will replace eight benches that are in disrepair. The new benches will be ADA compliant and made of recycled plastic for longevity. The Township cash match is \$2,598.47 with an in-kind match of \$1,280.

Michael Albert motions to approve the match commitment as presented, Robert Lovenheim seconds. Kati Machovsky asks about the price of the benches. Julia Heilakka states the total cost of the project is \$6,476.94. Zak Klaptosky asks about the location of the benches. Danica Hartenfels mentions a grant East Stroudsburg Borough received for free benches. Vicky Ozgun asks if benches are needed. Zak Klaptosky asks how many people use Minisink Park. Jacob Pride notes the use of the sports fields at Minisink Park and the re-stoning of the trail is generating more public use. Robert Lovenheim asks about a study to see if new benches are warranted. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.

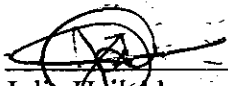
8. Public Comment.

- a. Jennifer Peck speaks on behalf of the Byrne family and states the terms of the stipulation agreement are too restrictive. The Board discusses the stipulation.
- b. Elisa Byrne states the Board to come to a verbal agreement on re-establishing the status quo during the meeting.
- c. Zak Klaptosky is frustrated with the timeline concerning the Back 9 case.
- d. Todd Moser speaks on behalf of the Veteran MX Foundation. He says motocross helps to alleviate issues facing veterans returning from deployment.

- e. Chris Cooksey claims actions taken by the Board are government overreach.
 - f. Todd Dailey has concerns about high density housing and would like to know what benefits and drawbacks for the current residents are.
 - g. Kati Machovsky asks about the non-uniform pension plan and Gatehouse Media from the bill pack.
 - h. Joe Roncelli asks how parcels can be rezoned. The Board discusses the process.
 - i. Justin Stangl says the Board singled Back 9 out and drug out the process.
 - j. Vicky Ozgun questions why Bonnie Winters is consulting for Middle Smithfield Township and claims that is a conflict of interest.
9. **Adjournment:** There being no other business before the Board, Michael Albert motions to adjourn, Robert Lovenheim seconds. Vote: all in favor; meeting adjourned at 7:21PM.

Minutes Recorded by Jessica Hodge

Respectfully submitted,



Julia Heilakka
Township Secretary