

SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
WORK SESSION – MARCH 18, 2026, AT 6:00PM

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A Work Session of the Smithfield Township Board of Supervisors was held on March 18, 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, and Conservation & Recreation Director Dr. Alex Jackson.

Also present are Vicky Ozgun, Charlene Spezza, Kati Machovsky, and members of the public.

1. **Chair Jacob Pride calls the meeting to order at 6:04PM.**
2. **The Pledge of Allegiance is recited.**
3. **Old Business: None.**
4. **New Business:**
  - a. **Discuss: Dirty Fill/Grading Ordinance.** Dr. Alex Jackson discussed the issue of dirty fill, how it was raised at prior public meetings, and a recommendation by the Environmental Advisory Council in 2025. He recalled that the Board of Supervisors discussed the EAC's recommendation, where Jon Tresslar recommended Pocono Township's grading ordinance for consideration. Dr. Alex Jackson produced summary minutes, Blirstown, NJ's ordinance, and Pocono Township's grading ordinance. He read parts of the prior recommendation and summarized related facts.

Dr. Alex Jackson reviewed the Blirstown ordinance and how MCCD recommended this as good framework to start. This led to a discussion on re-graveling driveways. Michael Albert suggested existing gravel drives could be exempt. Jacob Pride said the type of material matters, which led to a discussion on what material is being regulated. Robert Lovenheim suggested calling Blirstown, NJ, and asking for their thoughts.

Michael Albert asked about gravel getting an exemption permit, Jacob Pride noted that the Waste Authority does this for trash haulers in a similar way. The Board wanted to learn whether this is a good strategy for having registered vendors that are certified as using clean fill, which led to a discussion on enforcement. Dr. Alex Jackson discussed permit requirements, due diligence, and how this could benefit residents.

Jacob Pride discussed how subdivision or land development plans would be exempt due to those processes, and Michael Albert suggested the Blirstown volumes are okay, but said clean fill vendors should be given a way to pre-register. Dr. Alex Jackson called attention to Pocono Township's grading ordinance, which is different from dirty fill, and recommended a hybrid approach, which led to a discussion. Jacob Pride said most of what the Township is concerned about is smaller uses, talking about people who want to grade their property below the threshold for a stormwater permit.

Charlene Spezza commented on how she had issues with grading involving Classic Quality Homes, and how many dump trucks were being brought in while grading was simultaneously taking place and altering the land, but there was no ordinance to regulate this type of activity in the Township. When the Conservation District came out, they said the Township needs to have regulations in place for dirty fill and grading.

Robert Lovenheim said he knows of times when many dump trucks are coming into the Township and residents do not know where the trucks are coming from or have any way to police this. Vicky Ozgun said there was someone near her residence in Lake Valhalla with dump trucks coming in from unknown sources.

Jacob Pride said the consensus was to focus on regulating dirty fill, with some grading criteria as well. Michael Albert discussed whether soil movement for building single-family homes and smaller projects could be addressed in the building permit process. Albert emphasized that he does not want to get in people's way when they are beautifying their property. The benefits of a standalone ordinance were also discussed.

Dr. Alex Jackson said MCCD has the authority to inspect properties and issue notices, which could be used to help with enforcement of a standalone ordinance. Michael Albert suggested codifying this in the draft ordinance. Robert Lovenheim reiterated the importance of checking with other townships to gather information.

- b. Discuss: Well Permit Ordinance Amendment.** Jacob Pride stated the Township's regulations demonstrate that the SEO was responsible for issuing well permits, something that the Township's Zoning Officer has historically done. Hanover Engineering has been issuing well permits but recommended that the authority be re-conveyed to the Zoning Officer. They also suggested minor changes to clarify that setbacks comply with Title 25 of the PA Code, Chapter 71.13. Jacob Pride stated that this document has been reviewed by Hanover Engineering and the Township's Zoning Officer, which led to a discussion on these subjects. The Board also discussed advertising requirements.

Kati Machovksy asked a question about who is checking this, which led to a discussion about how most townships do it the proposed way in the ordinance update.


**5. Public Comment: None.**

- 6. Adjournment:** There being no other business before the Board, Robert Lovenheim motions to adjourn, Michael Albert seconds. Vote: all in favor; meeting adjourned at 6:43PM.

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Minutes Recorded by Dr. Alex Jackson

Respectfully submitted,

  
Julia Heijakka  
Township Secretary