

## **ROBESON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Robeson Township Municipal Building, 2689, Main Street, Birdsboro PA 19508 Berks County

### **Board Of Supervisors Workshop Meeting**

#### **WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES**

**April 9, 2026, 7:00 pm**

#### **I. Call to Order**

The Board of Supervisors Workshop Meeting of the Robeson Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairperson Bitler.

- a. Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- b. Roll Call.

Supervisors Present: Timothy Bitler Sr, Margaret Fix, Scott Gullo, Jeff Rhoads, & Harold Steve  
Also present: Acting Chief Jason Rimby and Solicitor Mark Merolla.

#### **II. Citizen Concerns / Public Comment –**

- a. Richard Steele – Ask for the status of the chief interviews, asked for status of the data center, and is concerned about the bridge on 724 in front of Bitler Law Office.
- b. Rose Hamilton – Questioned why the meetings are not posted on the sign outside the police station. Barry Readinger from Public Works stated that new letters purchased already disintegrated.
- c. Wendy Balwin – Asked if we could go back to the vendor regarding the issues with the letters for the sign. She also expressed concerns about the status of the police chief vs manager.
- d. Claudine B. – Requested a signal/lighted sign for the trains at Cedar Hill. She stated the weeds have gotten out of control.
- e. Lorraine – Asked for the status of the protentional data center. The Board unanimously expressed concerns about Data Centers in Robeson Township. Supervisor Steve expressed concerns about how we plan to integrate the new ordinance into existing ordinances.

#### **III. Correspondence –**

- a. Statements of Financial Interest are due to the Supervisors.
- b. Code Violations –
  - a. individuals living in campers that violate the code will be given a time schedule to become compliant.
  - b. Meraki Manor – Expanded seating but did not take out proper permits for renovations.
- c. Spring Clean Up – FREE is on April 25, 2026.

IV. Police –

- a. Safe Zone – The Safe Zone will be located in front of the police station. It will be under surveillance, painted, with a green sign. This is perfect for Facebook Marketplace meet-ups or custody switches.
- b. Firearms – Awarded Grant for the firearms. The Police are able to purchase their duty guns for \$225.00 per firearm plus transfer fees.
- c. Radio Replacement – A large scale replacement of radios is due by April 13 at 8 am. The police would like 10, Gibraltar would like 10, and Geigertown would like 10.

A motion was made by Supervisor Steve to sign exhibit 4 to initiate the radio replacement. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Bitler. Motion passed with no dissenting votes.

V. Finance / Other – Added to the Regular Meeting.

VI. Administration Comments –

- a. Hire for Public Works, Fiscal, and Manager.

Manager – Osmer Deming

A motion was made by Supervisor Steve to hire Osmer Deming as Township Manager contingent on his background check and obtaining an appropriate bond for an annual salary of \$90,000.00 with a 90-day probationary period. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Fix.

Yes – Bitler, Fix, Steve      No – Gullo, Rhoads

Fiscal – Christine Nuse

Motion was made by Supervisor Fix to hire Christine Nuse at \$28.00 per hour with a 90-day probationary period. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Steve. Motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Public Works

Motion was made by Supervisor Steve to hire the applicant for the open Public Works position as summer help until they received their CDL and to hire the 2<sup>nd</sup> applicant who already has a CDL. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Rhoads. Motion passed with no dissenting votes.

- b. Motion to advertise for, interview and hire two part-time admin staff.

A motion was made by Supervisor Bitler to advertise for 2 part-time admin staff and 1 full-time admin staff for 10 days. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Steve.

Yes – Bitler, Fix, Rhoads, and Steve      No – Gullo

- c. Liquid Fuels with State Auditor General Office – An audit occurred on our Liquid Fuels. The purpose of the audit is to see how the Township spent the \$350,000-\$400,000 in Liquid Fuels. Supervisor Steve shared that the audit took two days.
- d. Municipal Recreation Areas Seasonal Opening – Water testing occurred to prepare for seasonal opening.
- e. Request motion to commence accepting RFPs for mowing Municipal Properties. – Moved to the regular meeting
- f. Flag Drop-Off donated by Troop 543 – Retirement Ceremonies to be held at Gibraltar Park.
- g. Municipal Repository Discussion – Walton Ave  
A motion was made by Supervisor Steve to sign the municipal repository bid. Motion was seconded Supervisor Fix. Motion passed with no dissenting votes.
- h. Meraki Manor – discussed above.
- i. “Children at Play” sign for Quarry Road

VII. Supervisor’s Reports –

- a. SMP Database – Supervisor Rhoads – Program is in use.
- b. RTMA Lease – Supervisor Bitler – No Update.

VIII. Fire Companies

- a. Friendship FC – Report at Regular Meeting
- b. EMC
- c. Gibraltar FC
  - a. Asked for update for State Farm Safety Vehicles on 176.
  - b. Flashing Lights at the fire station are not working. Telco is looking into the issue but are making minimal repairs due to the Green Light Go Grant.
  - c. 54 calls last month.

IX. Minutes, Expenses and Reports –

- a. SEO Report\*
- b. EEMA Sewer Report
- c. Road Report
- d. Building Inspector’s Report\*
- e. Zoning Inspections Report
- f. Police Report
- g. Gibraltar Fire Company Report
- h. Friendship Fire Company Report\*
- i. Ambulance Service Report Tower Health
- j. Ambulance Service Report EHBEMS
- k. Village Library of Morgantown\*

A motion was made by Supervisor Rhoads to accept the reports. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Steve. Motion passed with no dissenting votes.

X. Planning & Engineering – Engineer Ryan Rhode

- a. Engineer’s Report
- b. Cedar Quaker Ridge Ph IV dedication and escrow release – Seeking to release previously approved funds

A motion was made by Supervisor Bitler to take the meeting out of order (Section XI. Legal Matters, Letter a.). Motion was seconded by Supervisor Steve. Motion passed with no dissenting votes.

A motion was made by Supervisor Steve to adopt Resolution 2026-12 for the deed of dedication from Quaker Hill Development Co. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Rhoads. Motion passed with no dissenting votes.

A motion was made by Supervisor Steve to release the funds to the Quaker Hill Development Co. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Rhoads. Motion passed with no dissenting votes.

- c. Old River Road Bridge – Deficiency Notice - The Old River Road bridge is slated for replacement after the 724 bridge repair. There will be road closure signs and one lane bridge signs placed on Old River Road to alleviate the heavier than usual traffic on that road.

A motion was made by Supervisor Gullo to authorize Supervisor Steve to reach out to Penn Dot to delay the bridge repairs on 724. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Fix. Motion passed with no dissenting votes.

A motion was made by Supervisor Steve to authorize Solicitor Merolla and Engineer Rhode to start preparing a stop sign ordinance at the bridge on Old River Road. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Fix. Motion passed with no dissenting votes.

- d. 2026 Street Work Update – Oil and Chip to begin the last week of May.
- e. Green Light Go Update – Finalized and submitted at the end of March. The Township received letters of support from Mark Gillen, Berks County Planning Commission, and the Twin Valley School District.
- f. Data Center Ordinance Update – The process is still progressing.
- g. April’s Planning Commission meeting was cancelled.

XI. Legal Matters –

- a. Resolution to accept the Deed of Dedication from Quaker Hill Development Co – moved above.
- b. Breidenstein Matter – no update.

c. Caernarvon Township MOU 2150 Hopewell Road – no update.

XII. Public Works – Barry Readinger

- a. Request permission to attend the Berks County Public Works meeting in Oley April.

A motion was made by Supervisor Fix to grant permission to attend the Berks County Public Works meeting in Oley on April 15. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Steve. Motion passed with no dissenting votes.

- b. The Public Works department is finishing up pipe replacement on Cocalico Road as well as Plow Road. Milling and paving on both those roads will start at the end of April.
- c. Discussion on the bridge on Old River Road. – Discussed above.
- d. Request approval to purchase (4) class 3 barricades for Old River Road. Approximate cost is \$2,200 from line item (433.140)

A motion was made by Supervisor Steve to approve the purchase (4) class 3 barricades for Old River Road. Approximate cost is \$2,200 from line item (433.140). Motion was seconded by Supervisor Gullo. Motion passed with no dissenting votes

XIII. Park & Recreation –

- a. Flag Football Tournament – Requesting two days a week.
- b. Mulch Day is planned for Saturday April 11.
- c. Flag Retirement Ceremony – The first ceremony is scheduled for July 4<sup>th</sup> at 10 am.

XIV. EAC –

- a. Data Center

XV. New Business - None

XVI. Old Business - None

XVII. Executive Session – Recessed to Executive Session at 9:02 pm to discuss personnel matters. The meeting resumed at 9:22 pm.

XVIII. Motion To Adjourn

A motion was made by Supervisor Steve to adjourn at 9:22 pm. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Fix. Motion passed with no dissenting votes.