

ROBESON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Robeson Township Municipal Building, 2689, Main Street, Birdsboro PA 19508 Berks County
BOS WORKSHOP MEETING
Minutes
November 13, 2025 7:00pm

The Workshop Meeting of the Robeson Township Board of Supervisors occurred at the Municipal Building, 2689 Main Street, Birdsboro, PA on Thursday November 13, 2025. Chairman Christopher Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Supervisors in attendance were Christopher Smith, Timothy Bitler, Jeff Rhoads, Scott Gullo and Joy Breidenstein. Also present were Solicitor Colin Macfarlane, AC Jason Rimby, Township Engineer Ryan Rhode and Township Interim Manager Harold Steve.

- I. Call To Order**
 - a. **Pledge Of Allegiance**
 - b. **Roll Call of Supervisors**
 - Chairman Smith – Present
 - Supervisor Bitler – Present
 - Supervisor Rhoads – Present
 - Supervisor Gullo – Present
 - Supervisor Breidenstein – Present
- II. Citizen Concerns / Public Comment –**

Resident Richard Steel, West First Street, Birdsboro addressed the Board with concerns that RTPD have a deficit of Police officers and questioned why the process for AC Rimby's promotion to Chief has taken so long. He was informed that both issues are being dealt with.
- III. Correspondence –**
 - a. None
- IV. Police –**
 - a. **Motion to adopt Resolution 2025 -24 permitting the submission of a LSA grant for critical fleet replacement.**
Motioned by Supervisor Breidenstein
Seconded by Supervisor Rhodes
Motion passed with no dissenting votes
Motion to approve \$100.00 application fee for the submission of a LSA grant for critical fleet replacement.
Motioned by Supervisor Breidenstein
Seconded by Supervisor Rhodes
Motion passed with no dissenting votes
 - b. RTPD Policies are currently being updated for the handbook. AC Rimby to email copies to the Board and Township solicitor.
Motion to authorize Township solicitors Kozloff Stoudt to review updated policies for the Police Handbook.
Motioned by Supervisor Breidenstein
Seconded by Supervisor Gullo
Motion passed with no dissenting votes.
 - c. ATS camera repair quote
The first option is to repair by pulling and addressing the CAT 5 wire at a cost of \$697.00. Alternatively, plan B is to install a point to point camera which will incur a cost of \$1497.00.

AC Rimby to clarify actual final cost for BOS Regular meeting on Tuesday November 18, 2025, to ascertain if the \$697.00 is in addition to the \$1497.00.

Motion to approve quote as supplied by ATS.

Motioned by Supervisor Gullo

No second due to pending clarification on costs

Motion failed.

V. Finance / Other -

- a. Monthly Expenses -
- b. Treasurer's Report -
- c. Sewer Aging Report – Not available due to PAMS transition.

To be reviewed for and actioned at the Regular meeting on November 18, 2025.

VI. Manager's Comments –

- a. Manager Interviews – The process has been completed, awaiting the Board's decision.
- b. Response to citizen's complaint from BOS Regular Meeting 10.21.25 re: Gibraltar FD – Leadership has now changed with the placement of a new chief who will update the Board at the November 18, 2025 meeting.
- c. Munilinks / PAMS Update – Letters and bills being sent to residents on November 12, 2025. Regular billing will occur on the 10th of the issuing month.
- d. Rock Hollow Bridge – The deck is to be installed approximately November 20, 2025.
- e. Allegheny Creek – Debris removal is scheduled for 9:00am on November 21, 2025.
- f. Old River Road – PennDOT reviewing calming measures
- g. Green Hills Estates, Pump & Haul incident – RTMA Resolution being addressed to allow invoicing. The township manager is not in possession of the Bond. Multiple sources are reporting unpaid invoices.
- h. Donations / Pantry Request - ongoing
- i. FirstNet – Public Safety Broadband Network – approx. \$40 per location for uninterrupted Internet access - ongoing
- j. **Motion requested for Resolution 2025-25 authorizing to file application of LSA grant for high-reach roadway safety and vegetation control equipment accompanied by an application fee of \$100.00.**
Motioned by Supervisor Breidenstein
Seconded by Supervisor Gullo
Motion passed with no dissenting votes

- k. 2026 Vendor Fees / Fee Schedule – request all fees set forth in any Ordinance to be amended via the fee schedule.

Motion to authorize Kozloff Stoudt preparation an Ordinance, that permits all fees pursuant to Resolution.

Motioned by Supervisor Rhoads

Seconded by Supervisor Breidenstein

Motion passed with no dissenting votes

- l. Budget – NFA

- m. Motion requested to approve and advertise the 2026 Budget to be open for review, comment and inspection. NFA as dealt with during the Budget Meeting #4.

- n. 2026 Reorganization Meetings – Changes to meetings as follows

BOS Reorganization meeting will be held at 5:30pm on January 05, 2026

Planning commission meeting will be held at 7:00pm on January 05, 2026

EAC Organization meeting will be held at 7:00pm on February 05, 2026. No January meeting.

- o. **Motion requested to approve and advertise 2026 Meeting Schedule**

Motioned by Supervisor Bitler

Seconded by Supervisor Rhoads

Motion passed with no dissenting votes

- p. SMP Ordinance – 15-03 (Is receipt required per Ordinance?)
 Motion to suspend condition of submitting receipts with septic pump report
 Motioned by Supervisor Breidenstein
 A discussion followed as to the implications of the proposed action.
 Seconded by Supervisor Rhoads
 Solicitor Macfarlane advised further investigation as an Ordinance is involved. Manager Steve to email Ordinance 15-03 to Board and Solicitor for review.
 Motion rescinded
- q. Motion to approve Resolution 2025-26 naming Nelson Ott as GAJA Joint Citizen Appointment.
 Motioned by Supervisor Rhoads
 Seconded by Supervisor Breidenstein
 Motion passed with no dissenting votes.
 Discussion Only Item, Manager Steve suggested the Board consider funding for the Ambulance Services.

VII. Supervisors Reports -

- a. SMP database - Supervisor Rhoads
- b. RTMA Lease - Supervisor Bitler
- c. Zoom - Supervisor Breidenstein
- d. Newsletter - Supervisor Breidenstein – Revisit for Spring edition as more advertisers would be available.
- e. Discussion on solar power - Chairman Smith – Recommends the BOS to look into Solar options
- f. Data Centers – Chairman Smith

VIII. Fire Companies -

- a. Friendship FC
- b. EMC Report
- c. Gibraltar FC

IX. Minutes and Reports -

a. BOS Budget Meeting # 1Draft Minutes	10.09.25
b. BOS Workshop Meeting Draft Minutes	10.09.25
c. BOS Budget Meeting # 2Draft Minute	10.21.25
d. BOS Regular Meeting Draft Minutes	10.21.25
e. BOS Budget Meeting # 3Draft Minutes	10.29.25
f. SEO Report	
g. Building Inspector's Report	
h. Zoning Inspections Report	
i. EEMA Sewer Report	
j. Road Report	
k. Police Report	
l. Friendship Fire Company Report	
m. Gibraltar Fire Company Report	
n. Ambulance Service Report – Tower Health	
o. Ambulance Service Report – EHBEMS	
p. Village Library of Morgantown	

To be reviewed for and actioned upon at the Regular meeting on November 18, 2025.

X. Planning & Engineering – Engineer Ryan Rhode*

- a. Engineer's Report
- b. Cedar Hill Estates – The property concerned is currently zoned as R1 and R3 and approved as a high-density residential area for 500 homes. This plan remains active and is set to expire on December 31, 2025. The applicant intends to submit another time extension request. This is also the site that is considering the possibility of an alternative use as a Data Center. Representatives in attendance with the Data Center project informed the Board that the conditional load study from First Energy validated the service supply requirement. A high-voltage structure would require updates. Should the Township decide to move forward with the proposal, a procedure will need to be established. The engineer will require a review of the conditional load study, in addition to a power study, Township feed-back and a detailed load study. Many variables require consideration and answers. Robeson Township EAC members proffered a list of considerations, opinions and questions. The EAC will supply a draft ordinance for the November 18th meeting.
- c. Green Hill Estates – multiple complaints have been received from residents regarding drainage systems / rain gardens. The Township Engineer is currently addressing the situation with the property developer and builders. Complaints have also been received from multiple sources regarding the developer's activities. The Board were advised not to release Escrow pending further investigation.
- d. Rock Hollow Road Bridge – Construction is well underway. Payment #1 is recommended

Motion to authorize payment application #1 to Witman Engineers & Consultants in the amount of \$114,398.10

Motioned by Supervisor Breidenstein

Seconded by Chairman Smith

Motion passed with no dissenting votes

- e. 2026 Street Work –Currently coordinating with Union and Brecknock Townships. Request authorization to bid subject to change with first advertisement on November 20th and second advertisement on November 25th with bids to open on December 10th and awarded on December 16th, 2025

Interim Manager Steve requested bids to consist of with and without line painting, with a consideration to jointly purchase a motorized line painter.

Motion to authorize Engineer Rhode to bid subject to change with first advertisement on November 20th and second advertisement on November 25th with bids to open on December 10th and awarded on December 16th, 2025

Motioned by Supervisor Breidenstein

Seconded by Supervisor Rhoads

Motion passed with no dissenting votes

- f. November Planning Commission Meeting was cancelled.

XI. Legal Matters -

Solicitor Macfarlane confirmed that EAC may make a monetary donation to IPL provided it is accompanied with supporting correspondence for tree planting.

Motion to permit EAC to donate \$400 to IPL for tree planting program

Motioned by Supervisor Breidenstein

Seconded by Chairman Smith

Motion passed with no dissenting votes

XII. Public Works – Barry Readinger

- a. Discuss terminating the fuel pumps behind the Police Station.
- b. Rock Hollow Bridge – beams are in place. CMS is on par with their schedule.
- c. New school zone / speed limit signs will be in place on Chapel Road no later than 11.21.25.

XIII. Park & Recreation –

- a. None

XIV. EAC -

- a. October 02, 2025, meeting minutes*
- b. Considerations for Data Center Ordinance*

XV. New Business -

- a. None.

XVI. Old Business -

- a. Website / Social Media impact – Chairman Smith assigning Township Facebook to Admin
- b. Key Identification – Ongoing
- c. Employee Handbook – Ongoing

XVII. Executive Session –

The Board recessed and entered Executive Session at 8:24pm

The Board returned from Executive Session at 9:10pm

Matters discussed were personnel and legal issues

Supervisor Bitler addressed the Chairman requesting a motion to adjourn.

No second.

Motion failed

Motion to extend an offer of employment to Mr. Derek Rhoads as Township Manager at an annual compensation rate of \$78,000.00

Motioned by Supervisor Breidenstein

Seconded by Supervisor Gullo

Supervisor Bitler wished to have a discussion on the motion as he believed that there should be two hires. He requested the motion to be withdrawn. Supervisor Breidenstein denied his request.

Under Solicitor Macfarlane's advice, Supervisor Breidenstein amended the motion to;

Motion to extend an offer of employment to Mr. Derek Rhoads as Township Manager at an annual compensation rate of \$78,000.00, with additional terms including but not limited to start date, agreeable by the parties and standard benefits for an office employee.

Amended Motion motioned by Supervisor

Amended Motion seconded by Supervisor Rhoads

YES Breidenstein, Gullo, Rhoads, Smith **NO Bitler**

Motion passed.

XVIII. Motion To Adjourn-

Motion to adjourn at 9:14

Motioned by Supervisor Bitler

Seconded by Supervisor Breidenstein

Motion passed with no dissenting votes