

ROBESON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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

BOS Regular Meeting

Minutes

November 18, 2025 7:00pm

The Regular meeting of the Robeson Township Board of Supervisors occurred at the Municipal Building, 2689 Main Street, Birdsboro, PA on Tuesday November 18, 2025. Chairman Christopher Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Supervisors in attendance were Christopher Smith, Jeff Rhoads, Timothy Bitler, Scott Gullo and Joy Breidenstein. Also present were Solicitor Joan London, Township Engineer Ryan Rhode, AC Jason Rimby and 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 –

When called, provide your name and Street name for the record. After this, you have three (3) minutes to share your comments with the Supervisors.

Resident Steel, 1600 Block Rock Hollow Road, thanked the board for the improvements at Gibraltar Fire Department.

Resident Mahon, Serendipity Drive, voiced her concerns regarding the fire, toxic smoke, water, sound, light pollution and outages.

Resident Balwin, Cedar Lane Birdsboro voiced his concerns regarding the electric costs of the data center; Chairman Smith informed him that such information is still being acquired.

Resident Stalnaker, Kingfisher Drive queried as to why a local commercial property with potentially less community impact was not being considered for the Data Center project. Chairman Smith and Supervisor Breidenstein that the owners were not interested in selling.

Resident Degler, Sky Lane was concerned about the impact on the well water, and if residents would be compelled to connect to public water. He also questioned the tax implications.

Resident Notario, Beachwood Drive voiced water concerns and stated that RAWA has difficulty maintaining the current supply.

Resident Godwin, Cedar Hill Rd, voiced concerns regarding access to the center, the train being stationary on the railway crossing, as well as noise pollution.

Resident Keim, White Bear Road, also had concerns about the water. He also contributed the improved secondary electric maintenance as a positive impact.

Resident Metcalfe, Serendipity Drive, voiced multiple concerns that he believed were associated with data centers and requested the Board of Supervisors to be transparent and communicate with the community.

Supervisor Gullo responded that the board is obligated to entertain the data center conversation and to hear both sides. He said he was pleased to hear from the concerned citizens. Chairman Smith emphasized the importance of being proactive and advised that the EAC are doing so.

Those present were informed that the area in question was already approved as a high residential area for five hundred homes, with their water supply coming from RAWA. Township Engineer Rhode said that no plans have been submitted and this is very much in the discussion stage and that multiple local municipalities are contending with the same situation.

Resident Mahon, 100 Block Serendipity Drive, conveyed to the Township, her thanks regarding the availability of woodchips. She also thanked the EAC for the native trees and shrubs provided to the residents at no cost.

III. Correspondence – None

IV. Police –

- a. PD Policy Handbook - sent to the board of supervisors and Kozloff Stout for review.
- b. ATS camera repair quote – Will try to pull cable and failing that will resort to wireless camera replacement.

Motion to approve maximum amount of \$1497.00 to repair the back camera at RTPD

Motioned by Chairman Smith

Seconded by supervisor Rhoads

Motion passed with no dissenting votes

- c. Hiring process – Interviews are completed and background checks are in progress.
- d. Grant Application – The application has been filed, waiting on feedback.

V. Finance / Other -

- a. Monthly Expenses – updated handout provided at the meeting
- b. Treasurer's Report -
- c. Sewer Aging Report – Not available due to PAMS transition.

Motion to accept the Monthly Expenses and Sewer Aging Report as is in possession

Motioned by Chairman Smith

Seconded by Supervisor Rhoads

Motion passed with no dissenting votes

VI. Manager's Comments –

- a. New Manager – Will update in Executive Session
- b. Gibraltar FD - Information to be provided later in the meeting
- c. Munilinks / PAMS - Still fielding calls and callers at the office
- d. Rock Hollow Bridge – Will be pouring concrete by 11/12. Expect opening by 12/31/25.
- e. Old River Road – PennDOT will be installing calming devices
- f. Green Hills Estates, Pump & Haul incident – RTMA resolution has been authorized to invoice. Multiple concerns regarding non-payment of invoices, daily pumping, and lack of generators. Solicitor to consult with the manager on further action

- g. Donations / Pantry Request

Motion to authorize community pantry at RTPD.

Motioned by Supervisor Breidenstein

Seconded by Chairman Smith.

Motion passed with no dissenting votes

- h. FirstNet – Public Safety Broadband Network

Motion to authorize FirstNet monthly fees for both admin and police building at \$36.99 per building and maximum cost of \$1,000 for two routers.

Motioned by Supervisor Rhoads

Seconded by Supervisor Bitler,

Motion passed with no dissenting votes

- i. 2026 Vendor Fees / Fee Schedule – Available in packet for review. NFA

- j. Budget – A tentative 2026 Budget is available for review in the Admin building.
- k. 2026 Meeting Schedule – Advertised in Reading Eagle on November 16, 2025
- l. Conflict of Interest Abstention Memorandum – Should a supervisor choose to abstain from a vote, a written reason must be provided.
- m. **RFPs – Request motion to advertise 2026 RFP for all positions**
Motioned by Supervisor Bitler
Seconded by Supervisor Rhoads
Motion passed with no dissenting votes
- n. Information Purposes: The Manager informed the board that the actuarial smoothing method pension plan resolutions require signatures, as a balance is needed to qualify for state aid. To be reviewed at December's Workshop meeting.

VII. Supervisors Reports -

- a. SMP database - Supervisor Rhoads
- b. RTMA Lease - Supervisor Bitler
- c. Zoom - Supervisor Breidenstein
- d. Newsletter - Supervisor Breidenstein - Suggested a revisit for a Spring circulation
- e. Discussion on solar power - Chairman Smith suggested inviting solar personnel / companies to the Township to explain the advantages of solar in an attempt to save the Township revenue.
- f. Data Centers – Chairman Smith

VIII. Fire Companies -

- a. Friendship FC - Rob Vanlew reported on behalf of Friendship Fire Company, Geigertown. They received a regional assistance Fire fighter's grant from FEMA for thermal imaging cameras and gas meters in the amount of \$38, 548.30. Their co-applicants were Adamstown FD and Reading FD. Trunk or Treat was held on October 31 and they were joined by other Fire, Ambulance and Police Departments.
The Breakfast buffet held on October 05, 2025 saw a 25% higher attendance than normal
October Call-outs -39 , including 15 medical assists. YTD 542
- b. EMC Report - Galen Brown reported his attendance at multiple EMC meetings. He offered to arrange a schooling session from UGI regarding pipelines. He voiced concerns on Ontelaunee Lake and Dam break. He has commenced writing a plan for such a scenario. He is updating the township NARHS Manual with regards to services that may be required by the township in case of an emergency. Requested the Board's cooperation with updating the manual as it was originally established in 2001.
- c. Gibraltar FC - New fire chief Richard Fix updated the board on recent events.
Expressed the need for new and young volunteers for all positions
Work nights are held at 6:30on Mondays – 24 people attended.
Gibraltar FC joined Geigertown FC meeting on Monday 11.17.25 - 9 people showed interest.
QRS runs are a concern as the County is dispatching, but Gibraltar is not certified QRS.
Paperwork will be updated on multiple matters.
Equipment is in good condition.
Interim Manager and fire chief are in conversation regarding equipment and apparatus.
Run cards are available at the admin building.
AC Rimby to contact captain at Troop L with regards to Gibraltar callouts to I176

Supervisor Gullo expressed his thanks to Fire Chief Fix on behalf of the board of supervisors and Geigertown Fire Department.

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 Minutes 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

Motion to accept the minutes and reports as is in possession.

Motioned by Supervisor Breidenstein

Seconded by Chairman Smith

Motion passed with no dissenting votes

X. Planning & Engineering – Engineer Ryan Rhode

- a. Engineer's Report
- b. Cedar Hill Estates – Time Extension Request

Motion to accept Time Extension Request

Motioned by Supervisor Breidenstein

Seconded by Supervisor Gullo

Motion passed with no dissenting votes

- c. Cedar Hill Estates – CLS Report – Data Center Developer submitted a “conceptual load study”. Engineer Rhode questioned the DLS Load Study size and also notations of “minor violations”
- d. Green Hill Estates – PennDOT has contacted Engineer Rhode, Green Hill Estates have approximately two years of delinquency and they will not be issuing any further permits until the matter is resolved. He also reminded the Township that they too are a permittee.

Motion to authorize Township Engineer to confer with Township Solicitor regarding Green Hills Estates.

Motioned by Supervisor Breidenstein

Seconded by Supervisor Rhoads

Motion passed with no dissenting votes

- e. Rock Hollow Road Bridge – Concrete pouring scheduled for Friday
- f. 2026 Street Work – The original date of November 20th will be pushed back as further coordination is needed between the municipalities. They will bid as soon as the details of the bidding projects are finalized.
For information purposes only – Engineer Rhode will follow up regarding the annual inspection of Green Hills Lake, as it usually occurs in October.

XI. Legal Matters -

- a. Preparation of Ordinance converting all fees pursuant to Resolution.
- b. SMP Ordinance 15-01, 15-03 amendment or replacement regarding receipt.
Solicitor London requested confirmation from the Board to permit Kozloff Stoudt to prepare Ordinances as above for December 11, 2025 Workshop meeting.

XII. Public Works – Barry Readinger

- a. None

XIII. Park & Recreation –

- a. None

XIV. EAC -

- a. Considerations for Data Center Ordinance
- b. Draft Data Center Ordinance

EAC chairperson, Kate Kennedy, Schuylkill Rd, introduced herself and informed the board that the EAC had prepared a comprehensive ordinance and letter with the intention of identifying points for concern and consideration regarding the Data Center. She invited those present to attend the next EAC meeting on December 4th at 7:00 pm and advised them of vacancies on the EAC board. EAC secretary McMahon requested the board to post the draft ordinance on the website and to also make a copy of it available at the township admin building. The Board agreed.

XV. New Business –

- a. Ambulance Service Funding - Ongoing

XVI. Old Business –

- a. Website / Social Media impact - Ongoing
- b. Key Identification – Ongoing
- c. Employee Handbook – Ongoing

Supervisor Breidenstein referenced E-Codes, said that the Township needs to pursue Codification.

XVII. Executive Session –

The Board recessed for Executive Session at 8:22pm

The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:56pm

Personnel issues were discussed.

Motion to send Jeremy Lendy for required psychological evaluation for Police Academy at Township cost. Contingent upon passing the examination and successful completion of Police Academy, the Township will hire Jeremy Lendy, subject to reimbursement agreement for cost of treatment should Mr. Lendy's employment terminate within the first twenty-four months of employment.

Motioned by Chairman Smith

Seconded by Supervisor Breidenstein

Motion passed with no dissenting votes

XVIII. Motion To Adjourn-

Motion to Adjourn at 8:59

Motioned by Supervisor Breidenstein

Seconded by Supervisor Gullo

Motion passed with no dissenting votes