

ROBESON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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

BOS Workshop Meeting

Minutes

December 11, 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 December 11, 2025. Chairman Christopher Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Supervisors in attendance were Christopher Smith, Jeff Rhoads, Timothy Bitler and Scott Gullo. Supervisor Joy Breidenstein was absent. Also present were Solicitor Colin Macfarlane, 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 -Absent

II. Citizen Concerns / Public Comment –

Sally Stalnaker, Kingfisher Drive - commented that the Data Center Ordinance was difficult to find on the website and that the EAC used multiple sources in composing the draft Ordinance.

Kate Kennedy Schuylkill Road - emphasized multiple factors for concern that the EAC addressed whilst composing the draft Ordinance.

Claudia Bahorik, High Sky Lane - voiced her opposition to the Data Centre, she said she believes that there is a lack of transparency towards the residents. She recounted various articles and statistics related to environments with Data Centers.

Doug Metcalfe, Serendipity Drive – stated that he has spoken to dozens of residents and not one person is in favor of the Data Center. He praised the draft Ordinance as composed by the EAC and requested the Board to adopt it. He mentioned that House Bill 502 would be detrimental for local municipality control of energy infrastructure and for residents to contact their local state elected officials and oppose it.

Wes Bahorik, Serendipity Drive – concerned about the noise pollution caused by diesel- fueled generators. He also had concerns about used water pollution emitted

Solicitor Macfarlane stated that he has worked on a Data Center Ordinance with Engineer Rhode for another municipality and spoke on multiple elements connected to Data Centers in a general manner including zoning, water supply and consumption, electric / back-up power supply, public hearings, capital improvements, sewage.

Tom Keim, White Bear Rd informed those present that the Main water as supplied by RAWA for the is being utilized by other parties and that electric would also be an issue.

Jamie Gellrich, Rock Hollow Road – questioned as to how the Municipal Authority Sewage Plant would be funded to accommodate the extra material from the Data Center. He was told that the Data Center would be responsible to fund the majority of the required improvements.

The Board relayed that the Data center is in an exploratory stage, with no plans submitted or follow-ups received since the initial presentation. Solicitor Macfarlane advised that his office will review the presented draft Ordinance, advise the Board of Supervisors accordingly. Upon finalization it requires a 30 day period to be reviewed by the Board and the County. The possibility of its' enactment would then initiate a public Hearing leading to another public notice and Hearing to potentially amend the Zoning Ordinance.

III. Correspondence - None

IV. Police -

Hiring process to be discussed in Executive session.

V. Finance / Other -

- a. Monthly Expenses -*
- b. Treasurer's Report - *
- c. Sewer Aging Report - *

Interim Manager advised the Board to review the Sewer Aging Report as it currently contains approximately fifteen properties that could be lienied.

VI. Manager's Comments -

- a. GAJA related Resolution –December GAJA meeting cancelled – Update to follow
- b. Rock Hollow Road Bridge – Contractor recommends using heated blankets to expedite the opening at a cost of \$4000.00
Motion to authorize the purchase of blankets for Rock Hollow Road Bridge if necessary, at a cost not to exceed \$4000.00
Motioned by Supervisor Rhoads
Seconded by Supervisor Gullo
YES: Gullo, Rhoads, Bitler, Smith **Absent: Breidenstein**
Motion passed.
- c. Allegheny Creek – Debris has been removed
- d. Old River Road – Calming measures are still being considered.
- e. Budget – To be voted upon at December Regular meeting
- f. Resolution 2025-27 Actuarial Smoothing Method for Non-Uniformed Employees' Pension Plan*
Motion to accept Resolution 2025-27 Actuarial Smoothing Method for Non-Uniformed Employees' Pension Plan.
Motioned by Supervisor Rhoads
Seconded by Chairman Smith
YES: Gullo, Rhoads, Bitler, Smith **Absent: Breidenstein**
Motion passed
- g. Resolution- 2025- _Actuarial Smoothing Method for Uniformed Employees' Pension Plan*
Motion to accept Resolution 2025-28 Actuarial Smoothing Method for Uniformed Employees' Pension Plan.
Motioned by Supervisor Rhoads
Seconded by Chairman Smith
YES: Gullo, Rhoads, Bitler, Smith **Absent: Breidenstein**
Motion passed
- h. Authorized signers for Robeson Township non-uniformed employees' pension plan*
- i. Authorized signers for Robeson Township Police pension plan (2)*
- j. Authorized signers for Robeson Township employees defined contribution pension plan*
- k. ZHB – 12.30.25 Breidenstein Hearing Does BOS want to make a recommendation*
Consideration of an objection to the applicant being granted the zoning relief per their request. Solicitor Macfarlane recommended acquiring more information to make a fair decision.
Motion to authorize the Code Enforcement Officer to visit the property for inspection.
Motioned by Supervisor Bitler
Seconded by Chairman Smith
YES: Gullo, Rhoads, Bitler, Smith **Absent: Breidenstein**
Motion passed

- l. Green Light GO Grant
Motion to pursue the Green Light Go grant
Motioned by Supervisor Bitler
Seconded by Supervisor Rhoads
YES: Gullo, Rhoads, Bitler, Smith **Absent: Breidenstein**
Motion passed
- m. Millage rate –
Motion to approve Resolution 2025-29 maintaining the Millage rate at 3.25 for 2026.
Motioned by Supervisor Bitler
Seconded by Supervisor Rhoads
YES: Gullo, Rhoads, Bitler, Smith **Absent: Breidenstein**
Motion passed
- n. Temporary Staff – New fiscal assistant has been hired
- o. Complaints / Rights To Know – May be dealt with at Officer’s discretion.
- p. Quick Books Upgrade – Current version is no longer supported; system needs to be upgraded. - NFA
- q. Various Board / Committee Member Positions The vacancy details are available on the website
- r. RPFs – Update – Auditor is on a 3-year agreement
- s. PA One Call – Watercress May 2024 – Liability been questioned as area was incorrectly marked. Cable, phone and electric lines were dug up. The insurance company wants to segregate and wants the Township to pay Met-Ed \$3719.00 and the cable company approximately \$2900.00. Solicitor Macfarlane advised that it is the responsibility of the accusers to prove the Township’s liability.
Motion for Manager to send a letter to Met-Ed stating that Robeson Township has no liability because Met-Ed mismarked their spot.
Motioned by Supervisor Rhoads
Seconded by Supervisor Gullo
YES: Gullo, Rhoads, Bitler, Smith **Absent: Breidenstein**
Motion passed

VII. Supervisors Reports -

- a. SMP database - Supervisor Rhoads
- b. RTMA Lease - Supervisor Bitler
- c. Zoom - Supervisor Breidenstein
- d. Newsletter - Supervisor Breidenstein
- e. Discussion on solar power - Chairman Smith
- 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 # 4Draft Minutes 11.13.25
- b. BOS Workshop Meeting Draft Minutes 11.13.25
- c. BOS Regular Meeting Draft Minutes 11.18.25
- d. SEO Report*
- e. Building Inspector’s Report*
- f. Zoning Inspections Report*
- g. EEMA Sewer Report
- h. Road Report*
- i. Police Report

- j. Friendship Fire Company Report
 - k. Gibraltar Fire Company Report
 - l. Ambulance Service Report Tower Health
 - m. Ambulance Service Report EHBEMS*
 - n. Village Library of Morgantown*
- To be reviewed at the Regular meeting on December 16, 2025

X. Planning & Engineering – Engineer Ryan Rhode*

- a. Engineer's Report
- b. Rock Hollow Woods – 90 Day Time Extension
Motion to approve a 90-day Time Extension for Rock Hollow Woods
Motioned by Supervisor Gullo
Seconded by Supervisor Rhoads
YES: Gullo, Rhoads, Bitler, Smith **Absent: Breidenstein**
Motion passed
- c. Green Hills Estates-
Mike LeClair, Dithridge Drive – Appeared before the Board to request that the developer is made responsible for maintaining the roads until they are completed and conveyed. To maintain stormwater systems until they pass inspection and that the HOA are not expected to maintain responsibility or fund the maintenance of the developer owned infrastructure before conveyance. He was advised that the Township are unable to do so.
- d. Rock Hollow Bridge – Payment application #2 has been received in the amount of \$237,243.45
Motion to authorize payment to Witman for Rock Hollow Road Bridge in the amount of \$237,243.45
Motioned by Supervisor Gullo
Seconded by Chairman Smith
YES: Gullo, Rhoads, Bitler, Smith **Absent: Breidenstein**
Motion passed
- e. 2026 Street Work – All contracts have been released for bid. A follow-up will be provided in January
- f. December Planning Commission Meeting was cancelled.
Information purposes only –The Green Light Go Grant – PennDOT have informed Engineer Rhode that the project is a strong candidate for funding. The application deadline is January 03, 2026 and results should be known within a month or thereabouts.
Interim Manager Steve informed Engineer Rhode that several complaints have been received at the Township office regarding the gate at Oak Grove.

XI. Legal Matters -

- a. Robeson Fee Ordinance*
Motion to authorize advertisement of Ordinance to be dealt with at December 16, 2025 meeting.

XII. Public Works – Barry Readinger

- a. NFA

XIII. Park & Recreation –

- a. March 24, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes*
- b. May 27, 2025 Meeting Minutes*
- c. August 25, 2025 Meeting Minutes*
- d. Request motion to authorize the purchase and installation of gutters and downspouts for the Gibraltar Park main building and pavilion per Bojako quotation at a cost not to exceed \$2,500.00 from line code 452.281. Copy of draft minutes from November 24, 2025 meeting to support this request provided.*

Motion to authorize the purchase and installation of gutters and downspouts for the Gibraltar Park main building and pavilion per Bojako quotation at a cost not to exceed \$2,500.00 from line code 452.281.

Motioned by Supervisor Bitler

Seconded by Supervisor Rhoads

YES: Gullo, Rhoads, Bitler, Smith

Absent: Breidenstein

Motion passed

XIV. EAC -

- a. November 06, 2025, meeting minutes*

EAC Chair Kate Kennedy inquired as to the status of applicants who have submitted letters of interest to become EAC members. She was informed that they will be considered at the Reorganization meeting. She also asked if any of the Board members had read the draft Data Center Ordinance and was told that it is still being reviewed.

Motion to authorize the solicitor to review the terms concerning the water supply in the Data Center Ordinance.

Motioned by Supervisor Bitler

Seconded by Supervisor Rhoads

YES: Gullo, Rhoads, Bitler, Smith

Absent: Breidenstein

Motion passed

XV. New Business –

- a. None.

XVI. Old Business –

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

XVII. Executive Session –

The Board recessed for executive session at 9:03pm

The Board returned from executive session at 9:20pm

Matters discussed were personnel issues

Motion to hire 2 full-time officers at the Class 4 rate contingent upon the psyche evaluation, starting in January.

Motioned by Supervisor Rhoads

Seconded by Supervisor Gullo

YES: Gullo, Rhoads, Bitler, Smith

Absent: Breidenstein

Motion passed

XVIII. Motion To Adjourn-

Motion to Adjourn at 9:21pm

Motioned by Supervisor Rhoads

Seconded by Supervisor Rhoads Gullo

YES: Gullo, Rhoads, Bitler, Smith

Absent: Breidenstein

Motion passed