

ROBESON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

JULY 16, 2026

The Regular Meeting of the Robeson Township Board of Supervisors was held at the Municipal Building, 2689 Main Street, Birdsboro, PA on Thursday July 16, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Chairman Timothy B. Bitler. Present for the meeting were Supervisors Timothy B. Bitler, Scott Gullo, Margaret Fix, and Harold Steve. Also present were Township Manager Osmer Deming, Solicitor Mark Merolla, Esquire, Engineer Ryan Rhode and Chief of Police Joseph Brown.

I. Call To Order

a. Pledge Of Allegiance

b. Roll Call of Supervisors

Chairman Bitler – Present
Supervisor Rhoads – Absent
Supervisor Gullo – Present
Supervisor Fix – Present
Supervisor Steve – Present

II. Citizen Concerns / Public Comment

Dr. Claudia Bahorik: Requested an update on the status of the proposed data center ordinance and asked whether the matter could be discussed earlier in the agenda. The Board explained that the ordinance remains under review and that additional discussion would occur during the Planning and Engineering portion of the meeting.

Kate Kennedy, EAC Chair and Township Resident: Expressed concern regarding the status and communication surrounding the proposed data center ordinance. She requested clearer communication regarding whether the ordinance was being reviewed by the Planning Commission, EAC, or Board of Supervisors and where additional comments should be directed. She also noted that the community appears to have significant interest in the issue.

Robert Caldwell: Addressed comments made during a recent appeal hearing involving his name and stated that he intended to pursue legal action for alleged defamation. He also stated that he had authorized police to search property he occupies regarding the matter.

Paula Cullen, Township Resident and former Administrative Assistant:

Addressed the Board regarding her resignation from the Township and asked questions concerning her resignation, administrative duties, payroll, and other personnel matters. The Solicitor and Board advised that personnel matters would not be discussed during the public meeting. Ms. Cullen continued to raise concerns regarding township administration and management.

III. Correspondence

No correspondence was reported.

IV. Police

Chief Brown presented the June 2026 Police Department report. During the month, the Police Department handled 369 calls for service and made five criminal arrests. Increased traffic enforcement resulted in 108 traffic stops, 74 citations, and 45 warnings. A targeted speed enforcement detail was conducted on Route 10 near Emily's Pub, and officers also conducted enforcement in areas identified by residents as traffic concerns. The Board approved attendance at a Patrol Rifle School scheduled for October 5 to 9, 2026, which will certify an additional officer for annual firearms certification requirements, as well as attendance at the CODY Conference scheduled for September 14 to 16, 2026, which will provide training on the Township's new records management system.

The Department received a \$38,000 grant for TASER equipment. The Board authorized the Chief to enter into the related maintenance and training agreement, with an initial cost of approximately \$941 and subsequent annual costs of approximately \$2,600. The Department also received an approximately \$17,000 firearms grant. The purchase was completed under the grant amount, leaving approximately \$7,000 in remaining funds, and the Department is awaiting state guidance regarding use of the balance. The AEDs intended for Gibraltar and Geigertown remain backordered.

V. Finance / Other

The Board reviewed the monthly expenses, Treasurer's Report, and Sewer Aging Report. A motion was made to approve payment of the bills and accept the financial reports. The motion was approved, with Supervisor Gullo voting no.

VI. Manager's Comments

The Manager presented information regarding a potential Township fireworks ordinance. The Board requested that the Chief of Police review examples of proposed ordinances and provide input before the matter is brought back to the agenda. The Manager also presented a resolution establishing confidentiality

requirements for designated Township employees regarding labor relations and collective bargaining matters. The resolution was reviewed with labor counsel. Resolution No. 2026-19 was approved, with Supervisors Fix, Steve, and Bitler voting yes and Supervisor Gullo voting no.

VII. Supervisors Reports

No significant additional business was reported under this section.

VIII. Fire Companies

Friendship Fire Co. was represented and reported 46 calls during June, bringing the year-to-date total to 234 calls. During the first five days of July, the fire companies responded to 24 calls, primarily related to severe winds, downed trees, and wires. No significant fire-company calls related to fireworks were reported. A joint training and CPR class was conducted with EHBEMS on July 12, with approximately 14 participants receiving CPR certification. An explosion and subsequent basement fire occurred on Gunhart Road and was attributed to a propane leak that entered the home's HVAC system. The homeowner was able to extinguish the resulting fire. The Board thanked the fire companies and emergency personnel for their response.

IX. Minutes and Reports

The Board reviewed the amended minutes and reports. A correction was made changing "Greenville Road" to "Green Hills Road." A motion was made to approve the amended minutes and reports, which was unanimously approved.

X. Planning & Engineering – Engineer Ryan Rhode

The Engineer reported that the 2026 oil-and-chip road maintenance project has been completed, with line striping still to be finished. Roadway debris and gravel in some areas will be inspected and addressed as needed. Paving work has been delayed due to weather and is now anticipated to begin around August 10, 2026. The Board requested that the work be completed before the start of school, if possible. Work continues on the Gunhart Road bridge, with a second engineering and bridge consultant, HRG, contacted for assistance. Repair pricing and options for the Gunhart Road bridge and other bridge projects will continue to be evaluated. The Board thanked the Engineer for his participation in a recent state treasurer's data center discussion.

XI. Legal Matters

- a. Truck Restriction Ordinance: The Solicitor reported that Ordinance No. 2 of 2026, establishing truck restrictions and related signage on designated township roads, had been properly advertised and was ready for adoption.
 - Motion: Approved Ordinance No. 2 of 2026.
 - Unanimously approved.
- b. Police Collective Bargaining: The Board was advised that negotiations had begun regarding the police collective bargaining agreement. Additional updates will be provided as negotiations progress.
- c. Comprehensive Plan/Data Center: No new information was reported. The comprehensive plan and data center ordinance remain under review.
- d. Neighborhood Racetrack Complaint: The Solicitor reported that the Code Enforcement Officer reviewed the complaint and did not identify a code violation that could be pursued by the Township. Any private nuisance action would be a matter between the affected property owners and the courts.
- e. Property Cleanup/Hearing: The Board directed that the property owner be given approximately 90 days to make substantial progress toward cleanup, with progress to be reviewed every 30 days.

XII. Public Works – Barry Readinger

Public Works reported that the 2026 paving project has been rescheduled due to weather delays. New Enterprise is currently targeting August 10, 2026, for the work to begin. The Board also noted positive comments regarding the condition and mowing of Gibraltar Park.

XIII. Park & Recreation

Discussion was held regarding a proposed township community celebration. A tentative date of September 19 was discussed. The event would serve as a township celebration and provide an opportunity to build toward the Township's 300th anniversary in 2029. Possible activities include community events, police demonstrations, SWAT and K-9 demonstrations, and other family-oriented activities. A working session will be held to develop the event further. The Board expressed support for the concept.

XIV. EAC

The EAC provided information regarding an upcoming NatureFest event in Union Township on August 22. The EAC plans to participate and promote an upcoming composting workshop. The Township may assist with promoting the event and related information through its website and social media.

XV. New Business

The Board discussed the proposed data center ordinance and related setback requirements. The matter remains under review by the Board, with additional engineering and legal review anticipated.

No other significant new business was reported.

XVI. Old Business

Previously discussed data center ordinance and comprehensive planning matters remain under review.

XVII. Executive Session

The Board recessed into executive session for discussion of legal and personnel matters. Following the executive session, the Board returned to regular session. The Board approved participation by two township employees in a four-person charity clay shoot in Rockwood, Pennsylvania. The event benefits a foundation established in memory of a state trooper killed in the line of duty. Participation will result in the donation of four preliminary breath testing devices to the Police Department.

- Motion: Approved.
- Vote: Unanimously approved.

XVIII. Motion To Adjourn

There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. **Motion approved unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at **8:07 p.m.**