

ROBESON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

June 18, 2026

The Regular Meeting of the Robeson Township Board of Supervisors was held at the Robeson Municipal Building, 2689 Main Street, Birdsboro, PA on Thursday June 18, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Chairman Timothy B. Bitler. Present for the meeting were Supervisors Timothy B. Bitler, Jeffrey Rhoads, 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 – Present
Supervisor Gullo – Present
Supervisor Fix – Present
Supervisor Steve – Present

II. Citizen Concerns / Public Comment

Robert Deeds expressed concern over neighbor racing vehicles and building a racetrack. Concerns were addressed by the board, and Technicon is looking into the zoning of the area. Rick Steel made comments regarding hanging police certifications in the meeting room and displeasure with the handling of swearing in Chief Brown, access to the Township Manager, and time limits while speaking at meetings.

III. Correspondence

Steve Crawford, owner of Rally Cap Tournaments, discussed his company's partnership with Union Township and offered the same to Robeson Township. This would include maintaining the baseball fields and opening them up for tournaments on the weekends and Township use.

IV. Police

- A. Chief Joseph Brown discussed the Berks County Emergency Response Team membership and asked that the 2026 dues get paid in the amount of \$1000.00.

Motion to authorize payment for the 2026 BCERT dues in the amount of \$1,000.00.

Moved by Supervisor Steve.

Seconded by Supervisor Fix.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

- B. Purchase of tasers- Grant was previously approved for \$38,952.00, Chief Brown is now asking for approval to purchase the tasers from Axon. Due to Axon being a single source provider no bid is needed.

Motion to purchase tasers from Axon for \$38,952.00 in accordance with the grant.

Moved by Supervisor Steve.

Seconded by Supervisor Rhoads.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

- C. Purchase of firearms and related equipment- Grant was previously approved for \$17,226.00. Telephonic bidding has taken place and Markl Supply Company out of Pittsburgh, PA had the lowest bid at \$10,103.67. Chief Brown is awaiting a call back from DCED to see if remainder of funds from this grant can be used for training or ammunition.

Motion to purchase firearms and related equipment from Markl Supply for \$10,103.67 in accordance with the grant.

Moved by Supervisor Steve.

Seconded by Supervisor Fix.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

- D. Resolution allowing transfer of firearm ownership from Township to retired police officer. A police officer retired and purchased his firearm from the Township, but the transfer of ownership had not been completed. Resolution 2026-18 is included in packet.

Motion to pass Resolution 2026-18 to transfer ownership of the firearm and include the receipt of purchase.

Moved by Supervisor Steve.

Seconded by Supervisor Fix.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

- E. Twin Valley School District Agreement- Robeson Police Department has been engaged in a MOU with the School District in regard to school safety. It needs to be signed by June 30th.

Motion to approve the memorandum of understanding pending review by the solicitor.

Moved by Supervisor Steve.

Seconded by Supervisor Steve.

Motion Passed Unanimously

- F. Monthly Report May 2026- 351 calls were received, 65 traffic citations, 2 non-traffic citations, and 3 adult arrests. Speed details will be conducted

V. Finance / Other

- A. Brief discussion regarding payment of bills and requesting refunds from vendors that will not be used.

Motion to approve payment of bills and requesting refunds of any outstanding credits where applicable.

Moved by Supervisor Steve.

Seconded by Supervisor Fix.

Motion Passed 3-2 with Supervisors Bitler, Steve, and Fix voting in the affirmative and Supervisors Rhoads and Gullo voting no.

VI. Manager's Comments

- A. Fireworks Permit- Fireworks of an explosive nature without permission from the Board of Supervisors are banned in the Ordinances in Section 108 under Parks and Rec. A permit will be drafted and presented to the Board at the next meeting.
- B. ARL MOU- The MOU with Berks ARL had lapsed and approval is needed to execute the agreement.

Motion to announce the agreement with Berks ARL at \$200 per dog.

Moved by Supervisor Steve.

Seconded by Supervisor Fix.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

- C. Applicant Search for Administrative Assistant Role- Applicant presented well at the interview, passed background check, and are pending the reference checks. Per Section 117 in the code of ordinances Board approval is needed to move forward with the hiring process.

Motion to hire interviewed candidate.

Moved by Supervisor Steve.

Seconded by Supervisor Fix.

Motion Passed 3-2 with Supervisors Bitler, Steve, and Fix voting in the affirmative and Supervisors Rhoads and Gullo voting no.

- D. St John's Church- Janet Levengood and Carol Kincaid sought permission for St John's to put up an electric sign that would show church announcements. The matter will be discussed and brought up at a later date.

VII. Supervisors Reports

No reports.

VIII. Fire Companies

- A. Ladder Truck Loan- The loan with Community Leasing Partners for the Friendship Fire Company ladder truck is in default with an outstanding balance of \$7,440.53 due and owing. Discussion about payments followed. The lender is threatening repossession of the ladder truck unless the outstanding balance is received next week.

Motion to amend agenda to include the payment of the Community Leasing Partners bill in the amount of \$7440.53 from line 411.500.

Moved by Supervisor Steve.

Seconded by Supervisor Fix.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

Motion to Authorize payment of \$7440.53 to Community Leasing Partners.

Moved by Supervisor Steve.

Seconded by Supervisor Fix.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

- B. EMC Municipal Briefing Packet May 2026- 43 calls were completed in May bringing yearly total to 192. Several bills for repair of trucks were submitted. Engine tanker, tanker, and Jeeps all received work and Jeeps were inspected. Discussion regarding switching the lights to LED, a formal quote will be provided at a later date.
- C. Friendship Report- 50 total calls for May, 10 were medical. Discussion about car accidents responses and safety of the road crew. A wing and cheesesteak fundraiser is to be held the following night at the Fire Company.
- D. Chairman Bitler led fire police in taking an oath.

IX. Minutes and Reports

A. Approval of Minutes-

Motion to approve minutes.

Moved by Chairman Bitler.

Seconded by Supervisor Fix.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

X. Planning & Engineering – Engineer Ryan Rhode

- A. Cedar Hill Estates- A 90-day time extension was requested. A representative from the project was present to provide answers to questions.

Motion to grant the 90-day extension.

Moved by Chairman Bitler.

Seconded by Supervisor Rhoads.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

- B. 34 Westley Road- A pending land development 90-day time extension application is awaiting action. The applicant has not responded to inquiries. There are potential building code violations being looked into by Technicon. The advice is to reject the application.

Motion to reject the 90-day time extension application.

Moved by Supervisor Steve.

Seconded by Supervisor Fix.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

- C. Brookside School- Awaiting plan to be given to Planning Commission. A standing waiver has been recommended by planning and they will request it when necessary.
- D. Street Work- Roads that have been oil and chipped will be swept the following week. Contract paving has been postponed until July 20, 2026, weather permitting. Gunhart Road Bridge, awaiting sign installation and working on cost estimates for repair.
- E. Rock Hollow Road- Adding a truck restriction to Rock Hollow Road will be added to next meetings agenda. Discussions followed about road closed signs in relation to Old River Road.

F. Robeson School Zone- Requested to look into school zones to see if updates are needed.

XI. Legal Matters

A. No Trucks Ordinance-

**Motion to authorize a solution to advertise for no truck zones on Ridgeway Road and Rock Hollow Road.
Moved by Supervisor Steve.
Seconded by Supervisor Rhoads
Motion Passed Unanimously.**

B. Code violations- Brief discussion regarding properties with code violations. Brief discussion about 1282 Green Hills Road requesting a hearing.

**Motion to hold a hearing at 18:30 on July 16, 2026.
Moved by Supervisor Steve.
Seconded by Supervisor Fix.
Motion Passed Unanimously.**

C. Eric Diggan, Esquire- Brief discussion regarding retention of legal counsel in an HR matter.

XII. Public Works – Barry Readinger

A. Line work on White Bear Road- Line work was completed, flagger force was present due to closure of half of a lane.

XIII. Park & Recreation

A. Approval of Flag Ceremony Flyer-

**Motion to approve flyers for the flag retirement ceremony on July 4, 2026 at 10:00am.
Moved by Chairman Bitler.
Seconded by Supervisor Steve
Motion Passed Unanimously.**

XIV. EAC

No comments made.

XV. New Business

No new business.

XVI. Old Business

A. Data Center- Michael Noll expressed concern about the possibility of a data center being built near his home/farm. Concerns were addressed by the board. More discussions regarding data centers and ordinances.

XVII. Executive Session

No executive session was held.

XVIII. Motion To Adjourn -
Motion to adjourn at 8:43 P.M.
Motioned by Supervisor Steve.
Seconded by Supervisor Fix.
Motion Passed Unanimously.