

ROBESON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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

WORKSHOP MEETING

MINUTES

May 14, 2026

The Workshop Meeting of the Robeson Township Board of Supervisors was held at the Municipal Building, 2689 Main Street, Birdsboro, PA on Thursday May 14, 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

Jody Lawrence expressed concern about an emergency following the closure of the Old River Road Bridge. This concern was addressed by the Township Manager and Police Chief. Zach Wheeler made a presentation about events at the Village Library in Morgantown and seeking support of the library from the Board of Supervisors. Richard Steele made some remarks regarding the hiring of Chief Brown and his disagreement therein.

III. Correspondence

None.

IV. Police

Chief Joseph Brown indicated that he had started the previous week and had met with police officers of the department to get a better understanding of the inner workings of the police department and has been reviewing police department policies.

V. Finance / Other

- a. Brief discussion of the Sewer Aging Report, working on getting updated list. To be dealt with at the BOS Regular meeting on February 18, 2025

VI. Manager's Comments

- a. 2 licenses to operate a junkyard.
Motion to authorize the signature of the renewal of junkyard licenses.

Moved by Supervisor Steve.

Seconded by Supervisor Rhoads.

Motion Passed Unanimously

- b. AED's should arrive in the next four weeks. Meanwhile, we should have one more in the vehicle.
- c. Manager referenced that mowing contract has been approved and mowing is underway.
- d. Workers' Compensation audit indicated our actual wages for reporting period 2025 were \$312,000 over the estimate. The biggest increase was in the police department. This results in a worker's compensation premium increase. The exact amount of premium increase is unknown at this time.
- e. Manager reiterated the process for septic system pumping and inspection therein.
- f. Chief of Police Contract

Motion to authorize the Chairman to execute the Chief of Police Contract.

Moved by Supervisor Steve.

Seconded by Supervisor Fix.

Motion Passed Unanimously

- g. Resolution 2026-13 for Appointment and Salary of Chief of Police

Motion to approve Resolution.

Moved by Supervisor Steve.

Seconded by Supervisor Fix.

Motion Passed Unanimously

- h. Firearm Purchase from Chief of Police to Robeson Township

Motion to authorize the purchase of a firearm from Chief Brown contingent upon all information being filled in on the written agreement.

Moved by Supervisor Steve.

Seconded by Supervisor Rhoads.

Motion Passed Unanimously

- i. Resolution--Formalizing Closure of Old River Road Bridge—tabled to next meeting
- j. Reference to day-to-day operations

VII. Supervisors Reports

- a. RTMA Lease - Supervisor Bitler indicated that there would be a legal issue relating to that lease and that lease continues month to month. He said that he would elaborate on that once we get a legal opinion on it.

VIII. Fire Companies

Will be discussed at next meeting

IX. Minutes and Reports

There are draft minutes of sewage enforcement officer report, building inspector report, zoning inspection report, and other reports.

X. Planning & Engineering – Engineer Ryan Rhode

- a. Stericycle requested a waiver of land development, and that company was in front of Planning Commission. Joseph Carnes gave a brief presentation to the Board. No one on the Board voiced any objection. Supervisor Steve requested improved landscaping on the driveway.
- b. Kramer/Nanni Annexation Plan on Cedar Hill Road. 0.726 acres proposed to be moved from the Nanni parcel and annexed into the Kramer parcel.

Motion to approve Kramer Nanni Annexation.

Moved by Supervisor Bitler.

Seconded by Supervisor Steve.

Motion Passed Unanimously

- c. Rock Hollow Woods project. Amended plan was approved two months ago. There is a standing escrow for work not completed. Engineer recommended releasing any funds that are remaining because they have relinquished their right to construct any more improvement, which is all part of the amended plan of record.

Motion to Release Escrowed Money that the Township has for this project.

Moved by Supervisor Steve.

Seconded by Supervisor Rhoads.

Motion Passed Unanimously

- d. Rock Hollow Bridge. Final payment and Change Order Contractor has submitted a request for final payment. That total amount is \$119,022.47, which includes a change order that increases the overall contract value by \$784.52. Engineer recommended authorizing signature for final payment and change order.

Motion to approve Change Order in the amount of \$784.52

Moved by Supervisor Steve.

Seconded by Supervisor Rhoads.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Motion to authorize final payment to Construction Master Services, Inc. in the amount of \$119,022.47

Moved by Supervisor Steve.

Seconded by Supervisor Rhoads.

Motion Passed Unanimously

- e. Engineer indicated that there was additional work performed by Construction Master Services outside the contract. This was with respect to working with our road crew on a small pipe replacement adjacent to the bridge.

Motion to authorize payment to CMS in the amount of \$2,022.79

Moved by Supervisor Steve.

**Seconded by Supervisor Fix.
Motion Passed Unanimously**

- f. Update Old River Road Bridge. We closed that bridge based upon structural issues. PenDot Contractor, McCormick Taylor, performed an inspection and confirmed decision to close the bridge. They will be doing a revised structural review to determine future use.
- g. PenDot Contractor inspected Gunhart Road Bridge and determined signage deficiencies. This will be addressed with Engineer and Barry Readinger.
- h. 2026 Street work update. Pre-construction meeting next day with New Enterprise on Buck Hollow Road repair and scheduling. AMS is looking at first week of June.
- i. Data Center Ordinance work. Draft is expected to be submitted next month.
- j. Meeting on Schuylkill River Trail and PenDot. They will be changing/improving line painting and signage at Rock Hollow Road/Route 724 crossing. Does not involve the Township.
- k. Gunhart Road Bridge. Will be revisited at future meeting.

XI. Legal Matters

- a. Ordinance regarding stop signs at bridge. Had it prepared but not necessary at present. Will be held on to for the future. We will update for other stop signs and have only one ordinance.
- b. A brief discussion on back stop purchase, updated by Supervisor Bitler. The Township will be working with a private entity. Attorney Merolla will be preparing a short form, acknowledging that the property can be available to the public. There was a mention by Supervisor Bitler that there are other fee in lieu of funds available.

XII. Public Works – Barry Readinger

Milling and paving work continues. Jerry Martin repair came back. The amount came under the approximate \$22,000 that had been approved. Backhoe now works.

XIII. Park & Recreation

Next meeting will be May 26. Park and Rec is planning to have a July 4 Flag Retirement at 10:00 AM. At Gibraltar Park. Working with Barry Readinger to have mulch spread. We are looking to do a Township Celebration Day in August.

XIV. EAC

Nothing new to report

XV. New Business

Supervisor Bitler discussed the Food Pantry/Food Bank which may be considered to be placed near the flag box. There are examples of such food bank areas for those who are in need, such as in Birdsboro. Supervisor Bitler discussed coming up with a list of canned goods, realizing that now foods that require a can opener might not be practical. Discussions to be had to achieve this. Warming places are a work in progress. One local church has expressed interest. Also, plans to have a small section of books without having to travel far to Morgantown or somewhere else.

XVI. Old Business

- a. Datacenter update already discussed.

XVII. Executive Session

A brief executive session was convened at 8:10 AM and concluded at 8:16 A.M.

XVIII. Motion To Adjourn -

Motion to adjourn at 8:18

Motioned by Supervisor Fix

Seconded by Supervisor Steve

Motion Passed Unanimously