Barrett Township Supervisors

Minutes of Workshop Meeting on May 20, 2026 – 6:30 P.M

A Workshop meeting of the Barrett Township Supervisors was held on Tuesday, May 20, 2026, at the Administrative Offices on Route 390 in Cresco, PA. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Barrett.

Present: Grant Hilfiger, Patti O'Keefe, Darryl Speicher, Bill Pipolo, Sean Anlauf, Nichole Irvin, and the public.

Grant Hilfiger began the meeting, reminding those in attendance that this is a workshop with no votes or formal actions to be taken. Discussions were for informational purposes only.

1. Executive Session

Grant Hilfiger made a motion to go into executive session for personnel matters. The motion was seconded by Bill Pipolio and approved unanimously. Following the executive session, the meeting reconvened.

2. BEDCO Cleanup Days Program

Grant Hilfiger discussed a proposal from BEDCO for a free residential cleanup day program. BEDCO would register the first 100 households across two days and asked the township to supply trucks and manpower for curbside or driveway pickup, offering $20,000 to reimburse the township's costs. The reimbursement would cover labor, insurance, fuel, and wear and tear. Excluded items include household trash, whole vehicles, hazardous materials, paint cans, broken glass, lithium batteries, and items that cannot be safely lifted by a two-person crew. Mattresses would likely be accepted.

Carol Hardy asked about waste haulers and suggested using local companies such as Palmisano rather than outside vendors like Gotta Go Potties. The board agreed to reach out to Palmisano and get competitive bids from various waste haulers.

Daryl Speicher expressed support for the program, noting the reimbursement arrangement is fair and that many residents have items that pile up because they lack trucks or physical ability to transport them.

Chris Gifford suggested exploring whether a garbage hauler could handle the pickup instead of township employees, potentially reducing injury risk. The board acknowledged the injury risk concern and noted the appeal of community involvement. Grant Hilfiger confirmed the township would not handle registration—only receive a list of addresses and map out the route.

The proposal is viewed favorably as a cost-neutral program for taxpayers. Palmisano and other local haulers will be contacted for quotes. A formal vote and decision will occur at a future regular meeting.

3. Short-Term Rental (STR) Tracking Software

Nichole Irvin presented the board with a proposal for short-term rental tracking software called “Neumo” following a demonstration she attended. The software would automate STR permit tracking, scanning for STRs, renewals, payment collection, and reporting to the county.

The Board introduced the topic, noting the proposal opened their eyes to available software tools. They emphasized the goal of ensuring STR costs are not subsidized by taxpayers unrelated to short-term rentals.

Nichole shared that a demonstration was already conducted. The software scans all advertising platforms—approximately 80+ platforms including Airbnb, VRBO, and social media. It identified 166 unique STR properties in Barrett Township, with 57 added in the last 30 days as of April. Startup cost is approximately $10,000 for the first year, then $10,000 annually. The software also tracks properties that are taken down and relisted to avoid compliance.

Jen Amantea suggested having the software tools in place before or alongside the ordinance development, using the analogy "have your tools before you go to work on the job." The Board agreed, noting the STR ordinance will be the focus of the next workshop. Grant Hilfiger confirmed the software cost would be rolled into STR inspection and permit fees so taxpayers are not burdened.

Patti O'Keefe expressed support, noting the self-funding aspect is a strong benefit. Sean Anlauf asked whether the board would be notified of new listings. Gant Hilfiger confirmed it would notify a designated office contact, with possible board notification to avoid redundant emails.

Barrett noted that Q1 permit fees already matched the entire prior year's total, indicating strong momentum. The software is the same platform used by Coolbaugh Township. Further discussion will be tied to the upcoming STR ordinance workshop, and the software cost will be covered through STR fees, not general taxpayer funds. Copies of the proposal packet will be made available to board members.

4. Pocono Mount Regional EMS—Regional Roundup Fundraiser & Subscription Program

Grant Hilfiger encouraged board members and the public to support the annual EMS fundraising event and subscription program, noting the EMS is facing a $130,000 unexpected cost for a required sprinkler system in their new building near the airport in Mount Pocono.

Grant Hilfiger announced the Regional Roundup event at Skytop on August 27, 5:30–9:00 PM, featuring barbecue, music, and dancing. He proposed the township have a table at the event, funded through fundraising rather than taxpayer money. He also promoted the EMS subscription program at $85 per year per household at pmrems.org, which helps offset out-of-pocket ambulance costs.

Carol Hardy raised a concern about EMS response times, referencing past issues with units being dispatched outside the township. Grant Hilfiger noted that the average response time in Barrett Township is 18 minutes. Further he stated that more funding and better data shared

with the call center are the primary solutions. The board recalled that Barrett Township previously had its own ambulance service, which was defunded and later regionalized.

The Regional Roundup event and EMS subscription program will be promoted on the township website and through board members. The board will explore funding a township table at the event through fundraising. Unique response time situations and supporting data will be communicated back to the call center.

5. Land Donation—Lot Between CBS and SOPCO Building

A developer approached the township about donating a just-over-one-acre lot located between CVS and the SOPKO building. The lot formerly contained a house that burned down and currently contains a stormwater retention pond for CVS and an old septic system.

Grant Hilfiger introduced the topic and noted Maureen Madden facilitated the initial contact. The developer considers the lot undevelopable and wants to remove it from their tax burden. The board initially did not recommend accepting it but acknowledged potential environmental benefits.

Sean Anlauf confirmed he is researching the maintenance agreement for the retention pond. Grant Hilfiger noted the property had been listed for sale previously and the developer is now looking to donate it.

Darryl Speicher explained the environmental benefit—the sloped green space helps retain stormwater and control runoff and paving it would increase runoff. He referenced the Gunderson property as a precedent for a donated property that was later sold to help fund the current township building. A public comment asked whether the developer would receive a tax break. The board clarified the township is not offering a tax break, but the property would be removed from the tax roll once owned by the township.

Further research is needed, including environmental assessment and lot conformity review. The developer has followed up once and appears eager for a decision, so the board needs to stay on top of the timeline.

6. Land Donation—Collins Aerospace Property Subdivision

A second potential land donation was briefly introduced. Collins Aerospace, formerly Reinhardt, is looking to subdivide their property and donate unused portions to the township. Grant Hilfiger received a voicemail about this on the day of the meeting and had not yet spoken with the contact. He mentioned it as a preliminary item since land donation was already on the agenda. The board will follow up with Collins Aerospace and bring more information to a future meeting.

7. High Acres Tree—Memorial Tree Replacement

Grant Hilfiger discussed that a tree planted at High Acres Park in memory of Sumner Shumway was not doing well. He proposed replacing it before Memorial Day weekend. Grant discovered

the dead tree while inspecting the memorial site. The tree was originally planted by the Rotary or the Legion. Jeff Price offered to assist with the tree replacement, and board members expressed full support. A replacement tree will be planted before Memorial Day weekend, and Jeff Price will coordinate with Grant on the planting.

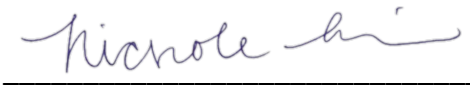
8. COG Charity Golf Tournament

Patti O'Keefe shared information from the Council of Governments meeting about an upcoming charity golf tournament on Thursday, August 20, at 10:00 AM at Glenbrook Golf Course. Per-person, foursome, and sponsorship options are available. Details will be posted on the township website for interested residents and board members.

9. Historical Society Flag Day Celebration

Patti O'Keefe reminded attendees of an upcoming community event hosted by the Historical Society. The Flag Day celebration will be held at the train station on June 14. Events include entertainment, historic games, and ice cream. Flyers are posted around town. No township action is required.

The supervisors' workshop was adjourned at 7:30 PM



Nichole Irvin
Recording Secretary