Barrett Township Supervisors

Minutes of Regular Meeting on May 27, 2026 – 8:00 A.M.

1. A regular meeting of the Barrett Township Supervisors was held on Wednesday May 27, 2026, at the Administrative Offices (BARC) on Route 390 in Cresco, PA. The meeting was called to order at 8:17 A.M. by Grant Hilfiger following an executive session for personnel matters.

2. Grant Hilfiger opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Grant Hilfiger addressed public comments on agenda items. Sherry, an adjacent property owner, offered public comment on two items: (1) the proposed MOU between Barrett Township and BEDCo, asking that the terms of any resulting legal agreement be made publicly available, and confirming that all township business is public information; and (2) the holding tank ordinance, seeking clarification on whether a holding tank is comparable to a cesspool. The board clarified that a holding tank is distinct from a cesspool, and that the solicitor would provide further explanation.

4. Grant Hilfiger made a motion to approve the Supervisor Meeting Minutes of April 29, 2026, the Supervisor Meeting Minutes of May 13, 2026, and the Supervisor Workshop Meeting Minutes of May 20, 2026. The motion was seconded by Darryl Speicher. All supervisors voted aye and the motion carried.

5. Bills

    a. Grant Hilfiger made a motion to approve the bills for May 13, 2026. The motion was seconded by Darryl Speicher. All supervisors voted aye and the motion carried.

Bills from May 13, 2026	
General	$38,073.69
State	$508.67
Park	$10,498.73
Ambulance	$31,533.22
Library	$151.70

    b. Grant Hilfiger made a motion to approve the bills for May 20, 2026. The motion was seconded. All supervisors voted aye and the motion carried.

Bills from May 20, 2026	
General	$102,227.13

Open Space	$184.31
LST	$765.42
Park	$285.80

6. Reports

    a. Payroll for May 26, 2026, was tabled. The report was not received in time for the meeting.

7. Old Business

    a. **MOU – Barrett Township and BEDCo: 2026 Curbside Cleanup Events.** Grant Hilfiger made a motion to approve an MOU between Barrett Township and BEDCo for two curbside cleanup dates: **July 13, 2026** and **September 14, 2026**. The motion was seconded. Discussion followed.

Under the MOU, BEDCo will facilitate the cleanup events. The township's involvement includes providing two workers and a truck for curbside pickup for up to 100 truckloads. Reimbursement to the township shall be up to **$20,000**, which will be applied toward addressing ghost homes. The township will invoice BEDCo and BEDCo will issue payment accordingly. Allowable items will mirror those collected on regular township cleanup days (no electronics, paint, or toxic waste). The township will reach out and bid out dumpsters and bring the selected vendor and costs back to the board for disclosure. Information regarding allowable items and guidelines will be published on the township website and Facebook page following approval.

All supervisors voted aye and the motion carried.

b. **Holding Tank Ordinance Adoption.** Grant Hilfiger made a motion to adopt the Holding Tank Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Bill Pipolo. Discussion followed.

Discussion centered on whether holding tanks should be permitted on a long-term or temporary basis. Concerns were raised by Patti O'Keefe regarding properties that renew their holding tank permits annually with no alternative septic solution in sight. The solicitor clarified the following key provisions of the ordinance:

- A holding tank is designated as a **disposal method of last resort** (Section 4017A).
- Holding tanks are **prohibited for new residential construction**; they apply only to existing residences where a septic system has failed.
- A holding tank permit is valid for **one year** and may be renewed annually. Proof of pumping receipts is required for permit renewal.
- A holding tank permit is **not transferable**; a new owner must apply for or renew the permit independently.
- Short-term rental restrictions are addressed under **Section 401-7, B6** (page 5 of the ordinance).

Darryl, Grant, Bill, and Sean voted aye. Patti voted nay. The motion passed 4 to 1.

c**. Revised Sign Ordinance Adoption.** Grant Hilfiger made a motion to adopt the revised Sign Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Bill Pipolo. The board noted that this

ordinance had been under review for approximately three and a half years, with multiple workshops and proper public advertisement completed. All supervisors voted aye and the motion carried.

8. Personnel Discussion

a. **Administrative Assistant Wage Increase.** Grant Hilfiger made a motion to increase the Administrative Assistant's hourly wage to **$22.00 per hour**. The motion was seconded by Bill Pipolo. All supervisors voted aye and the motion carried.

b. **Hiring of Operations Administrator.** Grant Hilfiger made a motion to hire **Amanda Seagraves** as Operations Administrator, starting **June 15, 2026**, at an hourly rate of **$29.00 per hour**, with a 60-day probation period, increasing to **$30.00 per hour** upon successful completion of the probation period. The motion was seconded by Bill Pipolo. All supervisors voted aye and the motion carried.

9. Correspondence / Miscellaneous / Non-Agenda Business

a. **May–June 2026 Events in Barrett Township.** Grant Hilfiger highlighted the following upcoming community events:

- **May 27:** American Red Cross Blood Drive Donation
- **May 30:** Volunteer Fire Department Sportsman Raffle
- **June 13:** Rotary Car Show at BARC
- **June 14:** Flag Day Celebration at the Train Station, hosted by the Barrett Township Historical Society — featuring food, games, strolling minstrels, and colonial era activities; costumes welcome
- **June 27:** Relay for Life at BARC
- **June 30:** Concert in the Park by the Rotary Club at BARC

2. **Insurance Renewal Presentation – Pat Dugan, Brown & Brown.** Pat Dugan of Brown & Brown presented the township's insurance premium summary. Key highlights included:

- Overall, a very favorable renewal year. The package increase with Selective is **under 5%**, compared to marketplace increases of 7–8% for municipal accounts.
- Property insurance is moderating after several years of stress driven by natural disasters. Liability lines remain a primary driver of increases.
- Workers' compensation premiums increased approximately **20%**, attributable primarily to audited payrolls being up **19%** and rate adjustments by the PCRB (Pennsylvania Compensation Rating Bureau): the public works class code rate increased from $5.33 to $5.68 (6.5% increase), and the volunteer fire rate

increased 6.9%, attributable to Act 121 making PTSD injuries compensable under workers' comp.

- The township's experience modifier (mod) stands at **.795**, reflecting a **20% credit** — significantly better than the statewide average of 1.0.
- An open claim carries a reserve of approximately **$50,000**, which will adversely affect the mod in a future year (based on a 3-year lookback period, years 2, 3, and 4).
- Overall, when factoring in the workers' comp audit adjustment, the township is up approximately **2%** in total premiums — well below the market average of 8%.
- No package claims to report; the township had a strong year from a loss-control standpoint.

10. Public Comment

1. Sherry, an adjacent property owner, raised the following concerns:

- **Bandstand Noise:** Sherry requested that the board consider repositioning the bandstand to reduce the compounded noise effect — both direct sound and bounce-back off the building — experienced by neighboring properties during events. She noted that decibel levels are likely above acceptable limits and that this concern has been raised multiple times previously.
- **BEDCo Board Member Comments:** Sherry expressed concern over a comment made by a BEDCo board member at a prior meeting suggesting that, after bills are paid, there would be little money remaining for charity. She also noted a comment characterizing the situation as "only two nights," which she interpreted as dismissive of neighboring residents' concerns.

The board acknowledged Sherry's public comments. No additional public comments were received.

11. Adjournment

Grant Hilfiger made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Bill Pipolo. All supervisors voted aye and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Nichole Irvin
Recording Secretary