Barrett Township Supervisors
Minutes of Regular Meeting on October 8, 2025 – 6:30 P.M.

A regular meeting of the Barrett Township Supervisors was held on Wednesday October 8, 2025, at the Administrative Offices on Route 390 in Cresco, PA. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Pam Gardsy

Present: Pam Gardsy, Patti O'Keefe, Grover Cleveland, Darryl Speicher, Kelly Slinger, Nichole Irvin, and the public.
Guests: Deanna Schmoyer (via Zoom), Township Engineer

Pam Gardsy opened the meeting addressing members of the public if anyone had a comment on the agenda items. There were none.

Darryl Speicher made a motion to approve the Supervisors Meeting Minutes from September 24, 2025. The motion was seconded by Patti O'Keefe. All supervisors voted aye, and the motion carried.

Pam Gardsy read the bills from August 27, 2025, and September 3, 2025. Patti O'Keefe made a motion to approve payment of the bills. The motion was seconded by Kelly Slinger. All supervisors voted aye, and the motion carried.

Bills from September 24, 2025	
• General: $70,820.26	• Open Space: $85.00
• LST: $6,208.56	• Parks & Rec: $1,890.78

Bills from October 1, 2025	
• General: $20,530.59	• Parks & Rec: $738.47
• LST: $744.74	• Library: $836.65
• Fire: $300.00	• Ambulance: $278.54

Reports:

Patti O'Keefe made a motion to approve payroll for weeks ending September 30, 2025. The motion was seconded by Kelly Slinger All supervisors voted aye, and the motion carried.

- Gross Wages: $25,366.29
- State Tax Liability: $778.73
- Federal Tax Liability: $1,728.64
- Net Wages: $20,191.97

Pam Gardsy read the Treasurers' Report and Patti O'Keefe made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Darryl Speicher. All supervisors voted aye, and the motion carried.

September 2025 Treasurers Report	
• General Fund: $564,760.19	• Library Fund: $837.65
• State Fund: $34,409.70	• Road Machinery Fund: $24,615.46
• Fire Fund: $113,862.31	• Open Space Fund: $46,727.28
• LST Fund: $27,021.21	• Park & Rec Fund: $35,261.75
• Ambulance Fund: $279.54	• FK Capital Purchase Loan: $553,768.00

Pam Gardsy read the permits issued report for September 2025, and a motion was made by Patti O'Keefe to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Darryl Speicher. All supervisors voted aye, and the motion carried.

Permits Issued: September 2025

- Zoning: 5
- Building: 12
- Septic: 1

Pam Gardsy read the Monroe County Control Center September 2025 overdose report. In September there were zero (0) overdoses. Year-to-date: 4. Patti O'Keefe made a motion to accept the report. The motion was seconded by Darryl Speicher. All supervisors voted aye, and the motion carried.

Pam Gardsy read the Pocono Mountain Regional EMS Call Volume report for September 2025.
PMR EMS responded to 40 calls in Barrett Township, and 484 calls in Barrett Township YTD.
- *In September 2024, PMR EMS responded to 53 calls, and 398 YTD*.
The total number of calls inside the service area for September was 548, and 5,178 YTD.
Patti O'Keefe made a motion to approve the PMR EMS report. The motion was seconded by Darryl Speicher. All supervisors voted aye, and the motion carried.

Old Business

Data Center Discussion:
Pam Gardsy continued the review on the proposed Data Center ordinance
It was noted that a revised version was sent to the Township earlier in the day by Deanna Schmoyer (Township Engineer) with changes on water resource protection. Deanna Schmoyer spoke on some of those changes which included (but not limited to…):

- Water sources impact Study
- Alternative data center cooling method other than pulling from a well
- Documentation requirement showing the aquifer beneath the site has the capacity to provide wells to the data center with enough water while not affecting adjacent wells
- Monitoring and testing of wells to reflect adjacent properties
- Water testing and data collection would be required prior to the conditional use hearing
- To mitigate drought conditions, a data center would be required to have a water storage tank or bring in another method during drought conditions
- Data Center wells could not affect adjacent property wells
- Maps and permits for water testing required prior to conditional use hearing
- Water quality could not be changed
- Monitoring ground/surface water within 300 feet

The minimum acreage of proposed land that a data center could develop on was discussed as well. It was noted that the first draft of the ordinance began with a minimum lot area of 5 acres. After further discussions, it was increased to 50 acres. Through legal conversations with Township attorneys, it has been discussed that 50 acres may be too restrictive based on the number of properties in the Industrial Zoning District that size and up. Pam Gardsy explained that there were only 5 properties that were 50+ acres in the "I" Zoning District. Pam also explained that one of them was the Pocono Heritage Land Trust which is protected land, and another was Best Way Lumber which has a stream running through – making both properties unlikely candidates for Data Center use. With only 3 remaining properties, it's setting the Township up for possible litigation with a developer which could threaten viability of the ordinance. With this information, Pam proposed lowering the minimum lot size to 20 or 30 acres. There was various discussion on the matter.
- Grover Cleveland suggested: 30 acres; 350 ft. Setbacks. Another requirement would be to purchase the Fire Department 55 Gallons of Class "A" foam every year and allow a developer to install hydrants in Industrial for water usage (for fire emergencies).
- Kelly Slinger asked Deanna Schmoyer if the buffer could be increased if an adjoining property was within a different zoning district, or the adjoining property was a residential use? Deanna explained that it was possible, and the supervisors agreed.

Rich Furs (Barrett BCO)- What about on-site water storage for fire suppression only?
Grover Cleveland said that he would agree to that, only if they put sprinklers in the building, and had enough water for the building, and enough for the Barrett Volunteer Fire Dept. to take. With additional conditions that they have an exterior port for on-site hook-up (which is the same as Skytop, Spruce Lake Retreat, etc.)

The supervisors also discussed maximum sound levels that could be heard from a certain amount of feet from the Data Center. It was decided that 57 decibels would be the 24/7 decibel level in the data center ordinance. It was discussed that the decibel measurement would be taken at the property line to determine how much sound was coming from the development.

America 250 Flag:
The Township was previously presented with an America 250 Flag, and the supervisors discussed where to have the flag displayed or flown. Grover Cleveland made a motion to display the flag at BARC. The motion was seconded by Darryl Speicher. All supervisors voted aye, and the motion carried.

New Business

Seven Pines Park Pickle Ball Court:
Patti O'Keefe explained that there was an engineered drawing of two Pickle Ball Courts at Seven Pines Park. The Park Committee is seeking approval from Barrett Supervisors to put out a bid for the Pickleball Courts. Patti O'Keefe made a motion to approve the Park Committee to seek out bids for Pickle Ball Courts. The motion was seconded by Pam Gardsy. All supervisors voted aye, and the motion carried.

Burn Ban Effective 10/2/2025:
Pam Gardsy made a motion to ratify the burn ban in effect until conditions approve. The motion was seconded by Darryl Speicher. All supervisors voted aye, and the motion carried.

Authorize Todd Weitzmann to Prepare Right of Way Letter:
Pam Gardsy explained that there are two property owners in dispute over a piece of land that is right of way access for Barrett Township at the intersection of East Dogwood and White Birch. There is a 5th wheel trailer on the area in dispute, owned by one of the property owners, which is required to be removed from Right of Way. Pam Gardsy made a motion to have Todd Weitzmann, Township Solicitor, compose a letter to the owner of the trailer ordering them to remove it. The motion was seconded by Kelly Slinger. All supervisors voted aye, and the motion carried.

Correspondence

- Letter received from Village View informing the Township of a 5% price increase for advertisements posted in the publication. Pam Gardsy made a motion to continue paying The Village View. The motion was seconded by Patti O'Keefe. All supervisors voted aye, and the motion carried.
- Letter received from Monroe County Conservation district on Bestway Lumber Treatment Facility. No violations were noted.
- Letter received from Monroe County Conservation District on Matthewson Home Site. No violations were noted.
- Letter received from Monroe County Conservation District on Roy Clark Ag and Residence. Violations noted as a FYI.
- Stephen Argen "Thank You" email for Township Maintenance coordination in moving a modular home to a site on Pine Street.
- PennDOT Feedback on Construction notice. The notice let all Pennsylvanians know that they are seeking feedback on construction and maintenance services. Pam Gardsy noted that she has linked the survey to the Barrett Township website if anyone was interested.

Miscellaneous Business/Non-Agenda items

- It was noted that the PennDOT Monroe County Maintenance Manager emailed the Township to let us know that they would not be attending a public meeting at this time. However, he did ask about areas that were critical to the community, and an email was sent with those concerns about state roads in Barrett Township.
- The supervisors provided a "Thank You" to everyone who came out to the High Acres Fall Festival, saying it was a wonderful day, and a lot of people showed up!
- It was noted that there were no certificates of Insurance.

Public Comment:

Sam Jones: Suggested that the Township should consult with the Brodhead Watershed Association due to the possibility of data centers recycling water back into the streams
Darryl Speicher agreed that Barrett Township does have special protection waters, and that the BWA will be at a conditional use hearing should a data center apply.
Deanna Schmoyer also explained that language is in the ordinance to protect water quality so that the warming of natural streams wouldn't be a result of recycling water back into the resources.

Mark Fisher: The Township didn't facilitate the acreage numbers, so how is the Township being restrictive when it's the people over history that have bought the properties?
Grover Cleveland explained that the Township is determining the restrictions on Data Centers what the minimum lot size is that they can build on.

Ralph Megliola: *(Speaking about the Planning Commission meeting…)* Why not leave the acreage at 50 because the Monroe County Planning Commission is likely going to kick the ordinance back with other suggestions, and they can let us [the township] know if it will work or not? *(The question was not directly answered; however the supervisors heard and acknowledged the question while continuing to discuss with this comment in mind)*

Carole Hardy: Are there any health hazards? Radiation? *(from data centers)*
Pam Gardsy explained that it might depend on their cooling sources, or battery/energy sources

Resident: Did you say that they would have their own power plant, too?
Grover Cleveland explained that in some cases, yes, and that in other states he heard there are run under nuclear power that will run for about 2 to 3 years.

Geri Murphy: We were told at previous meetings that the water evaporates for the cooling systems… or can it be recycled and reused again?
Darryl Speicher explained that some municipalities require that they have a water capture system (distillation), to catch and reuse the vapor collected. He also explained that in the earlier days of these [data centers], water was lost to evaporation.

Beth Cichello: Is there any restriction on how close they can be to somebody's' residence?
The supervisors explained that the setback/buffer provides for that distance.

Ralph Megliola: Noted that the acreage was lowered, and increased the buffer, but it still might create another restriction which could open the Township to litigation**.**
The supervisors agreed that the limitations cause risk for litigation.

Sam Jones: What type of hazardous conditions would it create for the rest of the town if one of the nuclear mini reactors [caught fire]?
Grover Cleveland responded that the containment would totally be within the acre, and it would not be a total meltdown. Very minimum.

Jane Wachter: What about protection on wildlife?
Darryl Speicher explained that a full environmental assessment is required prior to any land development planning.

Gary Pope: My research [on data centers] says that they will increase carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, and that Google Data Centers use 450k gallons of water per day, I don't see how that is sustainable. And could the data centers reduce sound to the environment?
Darryl Speicher explained that a Google Data Center is a much larger scale data center than what could be developed here, and the supervisors explained that the decibel levels would be restricted in how many decibels they are permitted to emit.

Grant Hilfiger: Offered his comments about the sounds/decibels he doesn't prefer to hear at his property line [in relation to a data center]. He also suggested that a data center developer needed 3rd party monitoring to report to the Township quarterly, as well as raised vegetation mounds added the buffer areas.
Grover Cleveland responded about clearing woods line, counter asking, "why would you take so many woods away, just to put it back to make a buffer? The goal would be to minimize cutting existing woods. Patti O'Keefe

referenced that the existing language in the proposed ordinance states that the existing woodlands buffer shall remain undisturbed.

Maria McWilliams: Can you share the data center ordinance draft on the Township webpage so we have time to review it before next planning meeting?
Pam Gardsy said that a link could be posted online where the next workshop link is posted.

Dave Kniper: Thank you for paving Pocono Plateau Road! *Darryl Speicher said he would pass thanks on to the maintenance crew.*

Sam Jones: Expressed concern about a property owner who has strung up unposted ¼" thick cables across all the access points to the Games Lands from their property in Cresco Heights. Sam Jones cited laws about how to cover that type of cable, or how to provide notice to it. Since those items were not taken care of, Sam is worried that someone is going to get seriously injured or killed.
The supervisors advised Sam to give the information about the property to Nichole Irvin, the Zoning Officer, so that it could be inspected.

Rick Hill: Commented about his permit fees for the renovations of the "Seguine House" being "waived" as stated previously at another supervisor meeting by the Building Codes Officer. The building permit fee is currently several thousand dollars.
Pam Gardsy explained that Rich Furs made that mention. However, he couldn't make that overall determination. He is only permitted to waive his fee. Not the Township BOS fee.

Carla Price: The lights on Evergreen Lane are still up, why are they still illegally up?
Pam Gardsy discussed that the police had gone out to check on the lights and determined that they were not bright enough to cause a disturbance. Patti O'Keefe explained that she spoke to Rich Furs about it, and he was going to go out and determine what kind of electrical permit would be required. Rich Furs said that they are in violation, he just did not send the letter yet.
Sam Jones added: What is the Right of Way? *Kelly Slinger explained that it's 15 or 16 feet from the center of the road.*

Grant Hilfiger: How did movie night go?
Pam Gardsy said that it was wonderful! 170 people were there, and that another one was being planned for Christmas!

Executive Session

Pam Gardsy made a motion to go into executive session at 7:57 PM to discuss personnel. The motion was seconded by Darryl Speicher. All supervisors voted aye, and the motion carried.

Adjourn

Pam Gardsy made a motion to reconvene at 8:30 PM. The motion was seconded by Grover Cleveland. All supervisors voted aye, and the motion carried.
Pam Gardsy made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 P.M. The motion was seconded by Patti O'Keefe. All

supervisors voted aye, and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Nichole Irvin
Zoning Officer/Recording Secretary