Barrett Township Supervisors
Minutes of Regular Meeting on August 27, 2025 – 8:00 A.M.

A regular meeting of the Barrett Township Supervisors was held on Wednesday August 27, 2025, at the Administrative Offices on Route 390 in Cresco, PA. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 A.M. by Pam Gardsy

Present: Pam Gardsy, Patti O'Keefe, Kelly Slinger, Grover Cleveland, Nichole Irvin, and the public.
Guests: Todd Weitzmann, Barrett Township Solicitor and Neil Albert, Barrett Township Ordinance Attorney
Absent: Darryl Speicher

Pam Gardsy opened the meeting addressing members of the public if anyone had a comment on the agenda items. There was 1 public comment by James Miller, who resides in Coolbaugh Township however his mother lives in Barrett, on data centers.

Pam Gardsy made a motion to approve the Supervisors Meeting Minutes from August 13, 2025. The motion was seconded by Kelly Slinger. All supervisors voted aye, and the motion carried. Kelly Slinger made a motion to approve the Supervisors Workshop minutes from August 20, 2025. Patti O'Keefe seconded the motion. All supervisors voted aye, and the motion carried.

Pam Gardsy made a note that she was verbally amending the agenda under New Business to include discussion on "movie night" at BARC. The amendment does not involve any spending.

Pam Gardsy read the bills from August 13, August 20, 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 August 13, 2025	
- General: $16,143.57	- Open Space: $59.06
- LST: $744.74	- Library: $174.61
- Fire: $1,774.58	- Ambulance: $58.18
- Parks & Rec: $50.09	- Road: $17,000.00
- State: $2,995.48	

Bills from August 20, 2025	
- General: $74,477.87	- Parks & Rec: $300.00
- Fire: $1,459.63	

Reports:

Patti O'Keefe made a motion to approve payroll for weeks ending August 19, 2025. The motion was seconded by Kelly Slinger. All supervisors voted aye, and the motion carried.

- Gross Wages: $ 19,143.20
- State Tax Liability: $587.68
- Federal Tax Liability: $1,379.86
- Net Wages: $15,078.11

The following July 2025 Pocono Mountain Regional Police Report for Barrett Township was read by Patti O'Keefe and a motion was made to accept. The motion was seconded by Pam Gardsy. All supervisors voted aye, and the motion carried. It was also noted that the speed monitor on Route 390 revealed that most drivers were following the speed limit with 5 mph (+/-).

- Calls: 113
- Complaints: 110
- Accidents: 3
- Ordinance Arrest: 2
- Criminal Arrests: 7
- Traffic Arrests: 16
- Vehicle Code Warnings: 10

Pam Gardsy spoke about the Monroe County 911 Control Center Emergency Response statistics report package. The package includes Monroe County Control Center incident totals, Monroe County Control Center Calls by Agency Type, Monroe County Municipality Incident Totals, Monroe County Municipality Calls by Agency Type, Barrett Township incident totals, and Barrett Township incidents.

Pam Gardsy shared the Monroe County 911 Control Center Annual Audit packet for public viewing if anyone was interested. Pam made a motion to accept the Control Center Report Package and their Audit. The motion was seconded by Grover Cleveland. All supervisors voted aye, and the motion carried.

Old Business

Neil Albert, Ordinance Attorney, was present to speak about the revised Sign Ordinance which had been advertised for two weeks ahead of the public hearing for the ordinance. He explained some of the major changes such as how the ordinance would be enforced, and explained minor changes such as clarification on the permitted size of a digital billboard, etc.

Pam opened the room to public comment:

- Grant Hilfiger pointed out there were two "(G) Temporary Real Estate Signs" under section 407-8, noting that the second (G) was likely the line meant to stay. (*Attorney Neil Albert agreed that it was an oversight, and the second (G) will be in the adopted version*)
- Peter Pipolo asked if a business has a non-conforming sign, and if the business leaves, does the property lose its right to that non-conforming sign after 90 days if another business does not fill in within 90 days? Also stating that sometimes in Barrett, it takes longer than 90 days to fill in a commercial building. (*Attorney Neil Albert directed the answer to the question under section 407-15, 4(d). The Board of Supervisors is empowered, upon written application, to extend that period for good cause shown. *Kelly Slinger stated that part of this section refers to damaged signs. The Board agreed to amend the Sign Ordinance language to include if a commercial building is being sold**)
- Krista Paolucci referred to the definition of "Obscene or Pornographic signs" asking the Board to consider using more descriptive language of the human regions the definition is referring to.
- Krista Paolucci mentioned political signs from the ordinance with relevance to a US Appeals Court Case ruling that certain regulation of political yard signs is unconstitutional. (*Attorney Neil Albert stated that he was aware of this case and pointed out that there was a great deal of discussion previously on whether to leave Political Signs in the ordinance and it was decided to leave the political sign provisions as they stand without change in this version)*

- Patti O'Keefe (to Peter Pipolo's point) suggested that the "Supervisors waiver" language be added to Section 407-15 (A)(6) (*Attorney Albert agreed that this could be added)*
- *Discussion was held between Attorney Neil Albert and Attorney Todd Weitzman on the difficulties a township may face when proceeding with provisions on political yard signs. Att. Neil Albert mentioned an idea which would regard all yard signs as "personal" signs (sports teams, politics, events, etc.).*
- Eli Berkowitz asked about provisions on the brightness of digital signs. (*Attorney Neil Albert directed the answer to that question to Sec. 407-13 (I)(4) of the sign ordinance.)*
- Michael Allegretti spoke to the Board on this matter, agreeing that regulation of political signs is a very difficult matter and borders too closely with free speech.
- Ruth Kochera asked if the matter was related to political signs placed on public property or private property? *(Attorney Albert clarified that the township could regulate public property, but the regulation on private property would be more difficult)*
- Ralph Megliola pointed out that most of the political signs are on the right-of-way along roads, suggesting that the maintenance crew could remove the signs that exist in the right-of-way after an election. *(Attorney Weitzman and Albert discussed that a property owner may own property, but the township, state or a utility company would control the right-of-way)*
- *There was further discussion between Attorney Neil Albert, Attorney Todd Weitzman, and the Board of Supervisors on right-of-way uses for signs. Under 407-6 (B)(4), the ordinance already has provisions on signs in a right-of-way or acquiring permits for encroachment of rights-of-way.*

Pam Gardsy made a motion to table discussions on Sign Ordinance and forward it to the Planning Commission for further review. The motion was seconded by Kelly Slinger. All supervisors voted aye, and the motion carried.

Pam Gardsy made a motion to cancel the township yard sale due to lack of sign-ups. The motion was seconded by Kelly Slinger. All supervisors voted aye, and the motion carried.

Grover Cleveland made a motion to have the upper field at BARC mowed to accommodate Rotary Club for the Halloween Parade, and to leave a 10x10 area for the bird houses. The motion was seconded by Kelly Slinger. All supervisors voted aye and the motion carried.

New Business

Pam Gardsy discussed the 904 Recycling Performance Grant which generated $659.69

Pam Gardsy discussed Ecode360 which is the online program that displays the Townships codified ordinances. There is a $100 price increase for the service announced to become effective January 2026. This will increase the service annually to $1,295.00. Pam made a motion to accept the increase. The motion was seconded by Kelly Slinger. All supervisors voted aye, and the motion carried.

Pam Gardsy discussed the PennDOT Winter Service Agreement which is a document that outlines which state roads Barrett Township maintains during the winter. Pam Gardsy made a motion to approve the PennDOT Winter Service Agreement. The motion was seconded by Grover Cleveland. All supervisors voted aye and the motion carried.

Pam Gardsy began discussions on Data Centers due to their growing popularity in nearby municipalities and Pennsylvania becoming a growing hub for them. Patti O'Keefe shared some nearby municipalities which already have existing ordinances on Data Centers such as Coolbaugh Township and Jackson Township. It was mentioned that the need for a Data Center Ordinance is crucial at this time in Barrett because there are no rules or regulations should an application be applied for to have one built anywhere within the township.

- (public comment) Brigitte Meyer, Staff Attorney at Penn Future: Stated that they (*at penn future*) have model ordinances on Data Centers that are available to view as starting points. She also pointed out the environmental impacts that Data Centers have and on the community. (www.pennfuture.org.)
- There were multiple comments on the effects that data centers may have on both local health and communities.

Pam Gardsy opened the room to discuss changing the Supervisor Meeting times. Patti O'Keefe mentioned keeping at least one of the 3 meetings at 8:00 AM in case there is somebody who cannot attend an evening meeting. Another comment was that the meetings used to be held at 7:00 PM. Kelly Slinger offered 6:30 PM as another option. Patti O'Keefe made a motion to have the supervisor meetings at the following times:
Second Wednesday of the month: 6:30 PM (Supervisor Meeting)
Third Wednesday of the month: 6:30 PM (Supervisor Workshop)
Fourth Wednesday of the month: 8:00 AM (Supervisor Meeting)
The motion was seconded by Grover Cleveland. All Supervisors voted aye, and the motion carried.
It was also noted by the Supervisors that the new meeting times would become effective in September.

Pam Gardsy made a motion to offer the service of printing copies for BARC tenants or the public and including the cost to the fee schedule. The motion was seconded by Kelly Slinger. All supervisors voted aye, and the motion carried.

Pam Gardsy and Janine Sopko noted that "Treats on the Trail" hosted by Barrett Paradise Friendly Library would occur on October 18, 2025, from 1PM to 3PM. It will be a Halloween Trick or Treat event at Ice Lake with pumpkin painting. (registration: 570-595-7171)

Pam Gardsy made a motion to host a movie night at BARC showing "Hocus Pocus" in the gym on October 3 at 7:00 PM. The motion was seconded by Kelly Slinger. All supervisors voted aye, and the motion carried.

Correspondence

Pam Gardsy discussed the email received from Krista Paolucci requesting consideration of FEMA Community Rating System Participation. Pam Gardsy stated that she reached out to the County so that the Township could gain a better understanding of this system.

- Krista Paolucci provided some background on this topic and suggested that BEDCo. could assist the Township in this area provided their resources including applying for grants and additional funding for Barrett.

Miscellaneous Business

Certificates of Insurance:
- Lehigh Valley Codes

Public Comment:

Grant Hilfiger: Regarding Zoom; "The host comes up as Pamela Gardsy, I think that it should be Barrett Township Supervisors" Grant also stated that if someone were to request a transcript of the Zoom chat, that there might be a discrepancy on who is typing the responses. Grant also questioned the board on why a motion is not being made to record and archive the meetings so that they could be accessed by a member of the public at a later date/time?
Discussion was held among the board and Pam Gardsy made a motion to begin video and audio recording of meetings via ZOOM and post them on the Barrett Township Website. The motion was seconded by Grover Cleveland. All supervisors voted aye, and the motion carried.

Mark Fisher: "Can we put some pressure on the State to pave all the state roads in the township?"
Susan Adina: Expressed concern about a bus stop sign on route 390 that leans into the road and is hit by on-coming truck traffic.
Extensive discussion was held among members of the public and the Board on how to get PennDOT more involved with Barrett Township state road maintenance concerns.

Executive Session

Pam Gardsy made a motion to go into executive session at 9:58 AM to discuss personnel. The motion was seconded by Grover Cleveland. All supervisors voted aye and the motion carried.

Adjourn

Pam Gardsy made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 AM. The motion was seconded by Patti O'Keefe. All supervisors voted aye, and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Nichole Irvin
Zoning Officer/Recording Secretary