

January 9, 2023

Barrett Township Supervisors  
c/o Barrett Township Municipal Bldg.  
993 Route 390  
Cresco, PA 18326

Dear Supervisors:

We, the Barrett Township Board of Auditors, have approved the wages and treasurer bond for 2023. Enclosed are the minutes of our meeting. If you have any questions, concerns or comments, please feel free to contact us.

Respectfully submitted,



Nate Covington, Chairperson



Christine Macaluso, Secretary



Karen Herring, Auditor

BARRETT TOWNSHIP BOARD OF AUDITORS  
REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING - JANUARY 4, 2023

The reorganization meeting of the Barrett Township Auditors held on Wednesday, January 4, 2023 at the Barrett Township Municipal Building on Route 390 in Mountainhome, PA at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Nate Covington, Christine Macaluso, Karen Herring and Pam Gardsy.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Christine Macaluso.

Secretary Christine Macaluso opened the floor for nominations for the 2023 Chairperson of the Board of Auditors. Christine Macaluso made a motion to nominate Nate Covington for Chairperson. The motion was seconded by Karen Herring and carried. Nate Covington made a motion to nominate Christine Macaluso for Secretary. The motion was seconded by Karen Herring and carried.

Minutes of the January 2022 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Christine Macaluso and seconded by Karen Herring and carried to approve the minutes.

A motion was made by Christine Macaluso and seconded by Karen Herring and carried to set the following wages for the year 2023:

All supervisor wages are set at \$19.38 per hour for hours worked.  
Roadmaster wages are set at \$32.45 per hour.  
Executive Secretary/Treasurer wages are set at \$25.97 per hour.  
Grant writer wage is \$10,000 per year, paid out quarterly.

Chairperson / Supervisor: Pamela Gardsy  
Vice Chairperson / Supervisor: Patti O'Keefe  
Executive Secretary / Treasurer: Pamela Gardsy  
Assistant Treasurer / Supervisor: Kelly Slinger  
Secretary: Kelly Slinger  
Assistant Secretary / Supervisor: Darryl Speicher  
Road Superintendent / Roadmaster Foreman / Supervisor - John Seese  
Alternate Roadmaster / Foreman: Pamela Gardsy

A motion was made by Christine Macaluso and seconded by Nate Covington and carried to pay any Supervisor who attends the Convention for 8 hours (maximum) per day at the rate of \$19.38 per hour for the year 2023.

A motion was made by Christine Macaluso and seconded by Karen Herring and carried to set the Treasurers bond for 2023 at \$1,000,000.00.

Auditor Chairman Nate Covington read and discussed with the public his requests submitted to the Board of Supervisors (pgs. 2 and 3 of the minutes).

As there were no further public comments or business, a motion was made by Christine Macaluso and seconded by Karen Herring and carried, to close the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted 1/9/2023 by Christine Macaluso

**Auditor's Meeting**  
- Comments from Nathan Covington -

## 1. In Support of the Rainy Day Fund

Last year we acquired the Barrett Elementary School property. How much is it going to cost to renovate? In 2021, the Community Park at Ice Lake opened. Between 2012 and 2019: The dog park, Wismer, Gravel, Skywood, Ice Lake, Seven Pines, Gunderson, Chestnut Mountain and Weinstein properties. How much does it cost to maintain all these properties?

The current Administration building used to support our local Police Department in addition to what it's currently supporting. Now it's too small?

My concern is our township could soon find itself in a position where it is reliant on grant money, **addicted** to a revenue stream that isn't guaranteed. If the grant money stops coming in, the township would have to go into debt. We should be **fiscally conservative**, and promote **sustainable** growth.

## 2. Robert's Rules only followed by custom

Barrett Township Meetings have the established **custom** of using a parliamentary authority, which is Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (RONR). While a parliamentary authority may be established by **custom**, it is considered "**unwise (RONR, p. 17, II. 7-10).**" Further, there is the possibility that other customs, conflicting with the parliamentary authority may develop.

*"For example, suppose it has been the regular practice in a particular group to automatically close debate whenever any member shouts "I call the question." As Chapter 4 emphasizes, this violates the rule that allows debate to be ended, against the will of any member, only by a two-thirds vote (adopting the previous question) and it is the rule, not the conflicting custom, which must be followed."*

*Source: Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised In Brief, 2004, pp 87*

**Real life example:** a few years ago, someone was in here arguing about the Short Term Rental ordinance. The person refused to sit down, started repeated themselves, and openly pointed that there was no time limit that could be enforced. They were effectively *taunting* the Chair, and that meeting almost went out of control.

**On behalf of the taxpayers**, what happens if we vote in new supervisors, who encounter such *customs*? ("We've always done it this way.") What tools will be at their disposal in order to effectively take control of the meetings?

**The recommendation is to codify all of these customs into written rules, in order to minimize any dispute as to what the rules are.** Based on my research, Barrett may adopt a parliamentary authority by resolution, as opposed to an ordinance, which involves meetings that need to be advertised. If there are any aspects of Robert's Rules that are undesirable, we can write a different rule into the resolution (or ordinance), which would supersede Robert's.

### **3. The Chair should be impartial**

Under Robert's Rules, the chair is supposed to be impartial. The best analogy I've found so far is the chair is supposed to be like a baseball umpire, they don't get directly involved. In larger groups, **Chairs aren't allowed to make motions, debate, or vote.** They temporarily step down as chair and the Vice-Chair takes over until that motion has been voted on, then resume as Chair. For smaller assemblies, like we have in Barrett, Robert's has special rules, so the chair is technically allowed to make motions and vote.

However, going back to the original point of the Chair being impartial, **my suggestion is for the Chair to say things like, "Do I hear a motion to \_\_\_\_\_,"** so that one of the other members can be recorded as actually making the motion. **The Chair can also wait until last to cast their vote, meaning their vote is only used as a tiebreaker.**

Respectively Submitted,

Nathan Covington