

**Barrett Township Supervisors
Minutes of Regular Meeting on August 14, 2024**

A Regular Meeting of the Barrett Township Supervisors was held on Wednesday, August 14, 2024, at the Municipal Building on Route 390 in Cresco, PA. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman Pam Gardsy.

Present: Pam Gardsy, Kelly Slinger, Darryl Speicher, Solicitor Todd Weitzmann, Jeryl Rinehart, and the public. Patti O'Keefe and John Seese were absent. A quorum was present.

There were no public comments on the agenda items.

The Minutes of the July 24, 2024 Meeting were approved on a motion made by Pam Gardsy and seconded by Kelly Slinger and carried. All Supervisors voted aye.

Pam Gardsy Seese made a motion to approve the payment of the following bills:

- July 24, 2024 - General Fund - \$ 282,971.09, Park and Recreation Fund - \$ 457.13, Fire Fund - \$ 6,349.49, Open Space Fund - \$ 138.05, Library Fund - \$ 1,001.12, Ambulance Fund - \$ 333.32
- July 31, 2024 - General Fund - \$ 10,654.80, Park and Recreation Fund - \$ 5,166.09, Administrative/Recreation Fund - \$ 171,311.00, Open Space Fund - \$ 85.00

The motion was seconded by Darryl Speicher and carried. All Supervisors voted aye.

Reports:

a. The Treasurer's Report for July was read. On a motion made by Pam Gardsy and seconded by Darryl Speicher and carried, the report was accepted as read. All Supervisors voted aye.

b. The S.E.O. (2), Zoning (9) and Building (12) Reports for June were read. On a motion made by Pam Gardsy and seconded by Darryl Speicher and carried, the reports were accepted as read. All Supervisors voted aye.

c. The Monthly Call Statistics for July were received from the Monroe County Control Center. On a motion made by Pam Gardsy and seconded by Darryl Speicher and carried, the report was accepted as read. All Supervisors voted aye.

d. The Roadmaster's Report for July was read. On a motion made by Pam Gardsy and seconded by Kelly Slinger and carried, the report was accepted as read. All Supervisors voted aye.

e. The High Acres Park Committee Meeting Minutes from July 1, 2024, were received. Pam Gardsy made a motion to accept the meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Kelly Slinger and carried. All Supervisors voted aye.

f. The Ambulance Report was read. For the month of July, PMR EMS responded to 39 incidents in Barrett Township, bringing the year-to-date to 301. PMR EMS responded to a total of 609 incidents in July, bringing the year-to-date to 3,922. On a motion made by Pam Gardsy and seconded by Kelly Slinger and carried, the report was accepted as read. All Supervisors voted aye.

Subdivision/Land Development/Lot Combination:

a. George C. Peck, Sr., 114 Deer Run Lodge Road, RKR Hess, Minor Subdivision Plan - The Applicant is proposing to subdivide one lot (Proposed Lot 1) from an approximately 20-acre overall parcel. Proposed Lot 1 will be approximately 2.35 acres, with the residual lot of 17.96 acres. The purpose of Lot 1 is to create a new lot for a single-family residence. The parcels are zoned R, Residential. Pam Gardsy made a motion to approve the Resolution for Plan Revision for the PA DEP Component 2 Planning Modules. The motion was seconded by Kelly Slinger and carried. All Supervisors voted aye.

b. Philip E. Wier, Jr., 3127 Lakeview Terrace, Hennings Land Surveying LLC, Lot Combination Plan – Pam Gardsy made a motion to table the lot combination plan until Township Engineer Deanna Schmoyer can review the plan. The motion was seconded by Kelly Slinger and carried. All Supervisors voted aye.

Old Business:

a. The Public Hearing was held for the Disturbance of the Peace Ordinance. Solicitor Todd Weitzmann gave an update on revisions to the Disturbance of the Peace Ordinance. The following public comments were made:

1) Kevin Young from Oak Lane stated his concerns with Section 102. Legal Authority and the word “health.” He asked, “Will the Township require mandated health checks for everybody, or should the word “health” be deleted from the proposed Ordinance?” His other concern was Section 102, § 370-2(3) Creates a hazardous or physically offensive condition by any act which serves no legitimate purpose. He stated, “he lives on Oak Lane and many drivers think that it is a racetrack, and it is posted 25 m.p.h., and we have nobody up here trying to enforce the 25 m.p.h.” His other concerns were excess noise from the speeding cars, radio and booms boxes and potholes on Oak Ridge, and fixing the roads throughout the Township.

2) Peter Begley from Smithfield Township stated that “he opposed the Firearm Discharge Ordinance, and it is about the laws of nature and one of the laws of nature is self-defense and these rights are given by God, according to the Declaration of Independence.”

3) Ashley Goodall from Buck Hill Falls thanked the Supervisors for proposing the Disturbance of Peace Ordinance and for listening to all the public comments in the previous meetings.

4) Beth Dotter asked if the Firearm Discharge Ordinance is in response to the shooting range complaints in the Prices Drive area and she stated while she doesn’t support having their 2nd Amendment rights taken away, she thinks that it is a great thing that the Supervisors are trying to figure something out, so people that live in the area can feel safe in their homes and yards. It was noted that the Firearm Discharge Ordinance was incorrectly put on the agenda as being advertised. It is not being advertised and further discussion will be held at the Supervisors Workshop on Wednesday, August 21, 2024, at 8:00 a.m.

5) Karl Stearns from Laurel Pine Road asked if the Supervisors Workshop Meeting was next Wednesday and can the public participate and comment. Pam Gardsy confirmed that it was a public meeting. He also asked what the plans are for enforcing the Ordinance, such as noise, barking dogs, lights, loud music, and cars that are obstructing traffic.

6) Police Chief Chris Wagner stated that enforcing the Disturbance of Peace Ordinance will suffice for the general noise complaints. The issue they are having is in a certain area of the community with a firing range. A firing range has been determined by multiple courts to be a constitutional protected activity and the Disturbance of the Peace Ordinance is not going to be enforceable. He also addressed Karl Stearns comments about how the Ordinance was going to be enforced by stating to call 911 and an officer will respond. If they feel that it is a violation of the ordinance or state law, they will take the appropriate action.

7) Sally Duffy asked if the discharge of firearms in the neighborhood be considered disturbing the peace and not have anything to do with the firearm ordinance. Following public comment on the Disturbing the Peace Ordinance, the Board considered adoption of the Ordinance. Pam Gardsy made a motion to adopt the Ordinance as advertised. The motion was seconded by Kelly Slinger and carried. All Supervisors voted aye.

b. It was noted that the proposed Holding Tank Ordinance will be discussed at the Supervisors Workshop Meeting on Wednesday, August 21, 2024, at 8:00 a.m.

c. Discussion was held on the estimate from Chapman Refrigeration LLC to repair the walk-in refrigerator and freezer in the kitchen. The cost to repair the refrigeration is \$ 22,935.00.

d. Krista Paolucci from Hive to Harvest was present to discuss her new food pantry that focuses on providing self sufficient classes for preparing meals and her goal is to provide food for today and skills for tomorrow. She was referred to the Supervisors for the use of kitchen at B.A.R.C. She has obtained some commercial kitchen equipment from Pocono Township, and she will be applying for grants to upgrade the kitchen. She would like the Supervisors to consider a multi-year lease for the use of the kitchen. She would need food storage space and areas in the kitchen to prepare food for needy families in Monroe County. The Supervisors will work with Krista to obtain funding from grants and fundraising to make the kitchen operational.

New Business:

a. Pam Gardsy made a motion to approve the payroll for July 24, 2024, in the amount of \$ 23,143.16 for gross wages, \$ 710.50 for state liability, \$ 5,195.63 for federal tax liability and \$ 17,947.53 for net wages. The motion was seconded by Darryl Speicher and carried. All Supervisors voted aye.

b. Pam Gardsy made a motion to approve the estimate from Gotta Go Septics to repair and install new piping in the pump tank station in the amount of \$ 2,240.00. The motion was seconded by Darryl Speicher and carried. All Supervisors voted aye.

c. A letter was received from Chris Gulotta from the Gulotta Group summarizing the discussion with the Redevelopment Authority of Monroe County to revitalize Canadensis.

d. It was noted that the proposed Discharge of Firearms Ordinance was tabled until the Supervisors Workshop Meeting on Wednesday, August 21st at 8:00 a.m.

e. A letter was received from the Mid Valley Emergency Services Association informing the Supervisors that they will be holding the Fire Service Leadership Conference on Sunday, October 20, 2024, in Peckville, PA.

f. A letter was received from Grant Hilfiger Contracting asking the Supervisors to waive the septic repair permit fee of \$ 200.00 for a local veteran and Building Homes for Heros. Pam Gardsy made a motion to approve waiving the septic fee. The motion was seconded by Darryl Speicher and carried. Kelly Slinger abstained due to a conflict of interest. All Supervisors voted aye.

g. Pam Gardsy made a motion to approve the 2025 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Non-Uniform Employee Pension Plan in the amount of \$ 39,877.00. The motion was seconded by Kelly Slinger and carried. All Supervisors voted aye.

h. Pam Gardsy made a motion to ratify the approval of the Fireworks Permit at Skytop Lodge on Saturday, August 3, 2024, at 9:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Kelly Slinger and carried. All Supervisors voted aye.

i. Pam Gardsy made a motion to approve dental insurance renewal with United Concordia. The motion was seconded by Darryl Speicher and carried. All Supervisors voted aye.

Correspondence:

a. It was noted that there was no Correspondence.

Miscellaneous:

a. It was noted that certificates of insurance were received from PT Reptiles PA and Chai Lifeline.

David Niper was present to complain about the condition of the Pocono Plateau Road. He stated that he initiated correspondence with Senator Rosemary Brown's office to put pressure on the Supervisors to repair the road. Pam Gardsy reported that Monroe County Conservation District has a program called the Dirt and Gravel Low Volume Roads Program to help fund the repair of the dirt and gravel low volume density roads and John Seese will be attending the class in

September. In the meantime, the Maintenance Department will be patching and filling potholes in the next several weeks.

Dee Ann Kalmar from Lake Jamie addressed the Supervisors concerning the serious deteriorating and worsening condition of Pocono Plateau Road and has reached a critical point for posing significant safety risks for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians.

Clara Benigno stated that the condition of Pocono Plateau Road is an embarrassment, and she is very upset and frustrated that nothing has been done. She asked about the placement of the meter, when the budget was being prepared, the date that the road was going to be repaired and when are the signs going to be put up.

Darryl Speicher wanted to remind everyone that the train from Steamtown will be coming to the Cresco Train Station on Sunday, August 25th from 12:00p.m. to 3:00 p.m. There will be live music, antique cars and Cook's Food Truck.

Pam Gardsy made a motion to go into Executive Session at 6:50 p.m. regarding personnel. The motion was seconded by Darryl Speicher and carried. All Supervisors voted aye.

Pam Gardsy made a motion to reconvene the meeting at 7:12 p.m. The motion was seconded by Darryl Speicher and carried. All Supervisors voted aye.

As there was no further business or public comment, Pam Gardsy made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 p.m. The motion was seconded by Kelly Slinger and carried. All Supervisors voted aye.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Darryl Speicher".