

**Barrett Township Supervisors
Minutes of Regular Meeting on August 28, 2024**

A Regular Meeting of the Barrett Township Supervisors was held on Wednesday, August 28, 2024, at the Municipal Building on Route 390 in Cresco, PA. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Chairman Pam Gardsy.

Present: Pam Gardsy, Patti O'Keefe, Kelly Slinger, Darryl Speicher, John Seese, Jeryl Rinehart, and the public.

Pam Gardsy made a motion to amend the agenda to include maintenance personnel and the roofing repair cost because they are both time sensitive issues. The motion was seconded by Darryl Speicher and carried. All Supervisors voted aye.

Karl Stearns wanted to comment on the headline article published by Nate Covington on the barrettcommunity.com website concerning the Supervisors hiring Attorney Neil Albert to defend the Firearms Discharge Ordinance. Mr. Stearns stated that it was misinformation and *"it's spreading wrong information, particularly questioning the credentials of Attorney Albert. It is fitting that it is explained in the meeting, what his credentials are and why the decision is being made to hire him so that it is repeated once again and for everybody's benefit. It needs to be stressed continually that misinformation like this causes discord in the community, and it doesn't help solve this problem"*. He stated, *"With regard to the proposed ordinance that will be drafted, I would like to urge that the matter be expedited as quickly as possible."* He read a letter that he sent to the Supervisors on July 31st, about a recent incident that occurred on a neighboring property with target shooting and another neighbor yelling for them to stop. The police were called, and they investigated the incident. He spoke with Sargent Miller who told him that the occupants stopped shooting after the neighbor started yelling at them. He told Sargent Miller that's not enough of a response, and that something needs to be done before this escalates further, and his response was that this is for the Township to care of. He wanted to state publicly that he is not anti-firearm, and he has a permit to carry firearms. He is in favor of people exercising their rights responsibly, but this is not responsible behavior, and this is not the kind of situation to have in a residential neighborhood with homes sitting on quarter-acre and half-acre lots. He is willing to work with the Township and the designated authority in this Township to get this problem resolved. He also stated that this has become a public nuisance, and it needs to be addressed before there are injuries or someone gets killed.

The Supervisors clarified that Nate Covington's website is not affiliated with the Township and has a history of publishing misinformation. It was noted that Attorney Albert was recommended to the Supervisors by Solicitor Todd Weitzmann because he worked through the process with him on developing the Firearm Discharge Ordinance for Stroud Township. The Supervisors will reach out to Chief Chris Wagner because the comment of the Township taking care of it is not accurate.

The Regular Meeting Minutes for August 14, 2024, and the Workshop Meeting Minutes for August 21, 2024, were approved on a motion made by Pam Gardsy and seconded by Darryl Speicher and carried. All Supervisors voted aye.

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

- August 7, 2024 – General Fund - \$ 80,756.49, Park and Recreation Fund - \$ 4,705.57, Fire Fund - \$ 550.00, Open Space Fund - \$ 1,160.66, LST Fund – \$ 655.07, Library Fund – \$ 894.58, Ambulance Fund - \$ 297.89, State Fund - \$ 145,000.00
- August 14, 2024 – General Fund - \$ 28,580.24, Administrative/Recreation Fund – \$ 13,521.25, Park and Recreation Fund - \$ 39.54, Fire Fund - \$ 138.92, Open Space Fund - \$ 45.06, Library Fund – \$ 140.01, Ambulance Fund - \$ 46.62, State Fund - \$ 425.88
- August 21, 2024 – General Fund - \$ 24,574.98, Park and Recreation Fund - \$ 948.04, Open Space Fund - \$ 85.00, LST Fund – \$ 1,400.09

The motion was seconded by John Seese and carried. All Supervisors voted aye.

Reports:

a. The Police Report for July was read. On a motion made by John Seese and seconded by Darryl Speicher and carried, the report was accepted as read. All Supervisors voted aye.

Old Business:

a. It was noted that an engagement letter was received from Attorney Neil Albert stating that he would be providing legal services to the Township to draft a Firearm Discharge Ordinance which will involve legal research, reviewing the Stoud Township Ordinance and the provisions of an ordinance draft that he believes would stand attack. Pam Gardsy made a motion to hire Attorney Neil Albert to help the Supervisors through the process of drafting a Firearm Discharge Ordinance at a rate of \$ 195.00 per hour. The motion was seconded by John Seese and carried. All Supervisors voted aye

b. Kelly Slinger gave an update on revitalizing Canadensis. Numerous property maintenance violation letters were sent to property owners to clean up their properties in Canadensis.

c. Pam Gardsy made a motion to approve the roofing repairs (prior to solar panel installation) with Alan Kunsman Roofing and Siding, Inc. in the amount of \$ 1,600.00. The motion was seconded by John Seese and carried. All Supervisors voted aye.

New Business:

a. Pam Gardsy made a motion to approve the payroll for August 20, 2024, in the amount of \$ 21,542.48 for gross wages, \$ 661.36 for state tax liability, \$ 4,804.57 for federal tax liability and \$ 16,737.91 for net wages. The motion was seconded by Kelly Slinger and carried. All Supervisors voted aye.

b. Fire Chief Grove Cleveland was present to discuss the traffic problems that were caused throughout the Township during the Bike4Chai and what can be done to make the area safer. Discussion was held on preparing a letter and sending it to PennDot to make them aware of the safety issues.

c. A letter was received from Joseph Fitzsimmon asking to lease a 50' X 50' area at High Acres Park for a cell tower. It was noted that he was not present and would be tabled to another time.

d. A letter was received from the Office of Voter Registration and Election reminding the Supervisors that they will be using B.A.R.C. as a polling place on Tuesday, November 5, 2024. John Seese made a motion to close the Administrative Office on Tuesday, November 5, 2024. The motion was seconded by Kelly Slinger and carried. All Supervisors voted aye.

e. Pam Gardsy made a motion to approve having Breakfast with Santa at B.A.R.C. on Saturday, December 14, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The motion was seconded by Kelly Slinger and carried. All Supervisors voted aye.

f. Pam Gardsy made a motion to approve the Fireworks Permit for Skytop Lodge on Saturday, August 31, 2024, at 9:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Kelly Slinger and carried. All Supervisors voted aye.

Correspondence:

a. An invitation was received from Lehigh Valley Hospital Pocono for a Golf Tournament on Monday, September 30, 2024, at the Great Bear Golf Club, and the proceeds will support the Dale and Francis Hughes Cancer Center.

b. An invitation was received from the Northeastern PA Alliance for the Annual Networking Reception 2024 on Thursday, September 26, 2024, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Kalahari Resorts and Conventions.

Miscellaneous:

a. It was noted that certificates of insurance was received from J.D. & Co. LLC, Johnson Controls, Inc. and Barrett Signs.

Austin Schrader from the Pocono Mountain Regional E.M.S. was present to report that they were awarded the F.E.M.A grant in the amount of \$ 160,000.00 to purchase cardiac monitors and they received a private foundation grant in the amount of \$ 127,00.00 to replace nine aging tracked chairs used to carry people out of houses and down steps. They hired about fifteen new employees. They are in the final stages of their building replacement project with over one million dollars secured with LSA grants. Their upcoming events are the Regional Roundup at Skytop Lodge on Thursday, August 29th. They will be coordinating with the Paradise Barrett Friendly Library to have CPR training classes, and they will be continuing their Membership Drive.

Pam Gardsy made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:45 a.m. to discuss personnel. The motion was seconded by Kelly Slinger and carried. All Supervisors voted aye.

Pam Gardsy made a motion to reconvene the meeting at 9:55 a.m. The motion was seconded by John Seese and carried. All Supervisors voted aye.

Pam Gardsy made a motion to increase the hourly wage for Matt Pajalich to \$ 22.50 per hour based on him getting his CDL License. The motion was seconded by Kelly Slinger and carried. All Supervisors voted aye.

Pam Gardsy made a motion to advertise for the Maintenance Superintendent Position. The motion was seconded by Kelly Slinger 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 9:56 a.m. The motion was seconded by John Seese and carried. All Supervisors voted aye.

Respectfully Submitted,



