

**Barrett Township Supervisors
Minutes of Regular Meeting on October 23, 2024**

A Regular Meeting of the Barrett Township Supervisors was held on Wednesday, October 23, 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.

Karl Weiler and Karl Stearns made the following public comments. Karl Weiler wanted to add an update on 6351 Route 191 and 107 W. Grace Avenue. Pam Gardsy gave an update from the Building Codes Officer, Richard Furs. The 6351 Route 191 property was posted with a Stop Work Order on Friday, October 4, 2024. The property owners scheduled a meeting with Rich on Monday, October 7, 2024. The Building Codes Officer explained to them that all the previous building permits had expired, and they would need to file for new building permits. The new building permit was issued on Thursday, October 17, 2024, but it is not valid until the Zoning Permit is approved. Zoning Officer, Jeryl Rinehart is waiting on the zoning application, and plot plan to be submitted. The sprinkler system waiver has also not been received, as requested by Richard Furs. An email requesting these documents was sent on Thursday, October 17, 2024. The Building Code Officer also posted a Stop Work Order on 107 W. Grace Avenue, on Friday, October 4, 2024. He spoke with the property owner's representative, Richard Hill. Mr. Hill stated that he would cover up holes with plywood to get around the Township and fees. The Building Codes Officer explained to him that his work and authority comes from the PA Department of Labor, and he is guided by the PA UCC, so the plywood patches will not suffice. He explained that a building permit is legally expired if there is any lapse of work longer than 180 days all permits are deemed expired after a period of five years from the issue date. Mr. Hill was issued a demolition permit for the garage and barn, and no other applications or documents were received. Richard Furs will continue the process of bringing the property into compliance.

Karl Stearns commented on the agenda item for revitalizing Canadensis. He is very concerned about the misinformation that's been posted online about the lack of transparency from the Supervisors. He stated that anyone who has attended these meetings and who has met some of the people who are interested in this, would know exactly what is going on. He is very disturbed about the idea that is being presented that people are being beat up on and taken advantage of and the effort is being made to attack people who are poor and can't afford the renovations or fix ups on their properties, which we know is not true. The other part that he is concerned about with abandoned buildings is, we all view them as an eyesore, but we haven't had in this Township, which is a very serious concern, is squatters. He's seen it in other areas, and it is just a matter of time and some of these properties will become targets as well and we need to be concerned about that. He applauds the effort that is being made to enforce the codes and we appreciate the efforts. It is unfortunate but it has to be done. The other thing that he was concerned about, it is not on the agenda, is the cell tower. There are pictures online of these monstrosity cell towers that are obviously designed to shake people up and scare them about what is being done. If anyone has attended these meetings, you would know that this has been a step-by-step process, and the Supervisors have not just brushed it aside and say go do what you want. There is a heavy hand on making sure that this thing is being done properly. He wanted to state those things in a public meeting because the misinformation is very unfair for the efforts that are being put into this. It was also discussed that the misinformation is coming from a public website, the Barrett Community website, which is published by Nate Covington. The website is made to appear to be part of Barrett Township when, in fact, it is not.

The Regular Meeting Minutes for October 9, 2024, and the Workshop Meeting Minutes for October 16, 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:

- September 25, 2024 – General Fund - \$ 256,953.38, Park and Recreation Fund - \$ 6,279.86, Open Space Fund - \$ 85.00 Library Fund – \$ 518.16, Ambulance Fund - \$ 172.57, Fire Fund - \$ 3,397.74, State Fund - \$ 33.30
- October 2, 2024 – General Fund - \$ 11,587.35, Park and Recreation Fund - \$ 776.98, Open Space Fund - \$ 85.00, Fire Fund – \$ 1,849.17
- October 9, 2024 - General Fund - \$ 66,545.66, State Fund - \$ 824.92, Park and Recreation Fund - \$ 6,415.45, Open Space Fund - \$ 8,278.82, Library Fund – \$ 941.62, Ambulance Fund - \$ 313.53, LST Fund - \$ 12,202.13, Fire Fund - \$ 171.00
- October 15, 2024 - General Fund - \$ 10,850.96, Park and Recreation Fund - \$ 260.66, Open Space Fund - \$ 46.69, Library Fund – \$ 606.77, Ambulance Fund - \$ 201.99, Fire Fund – \$ 537.49, State Fund - \$ 1,137.29

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

Reports:

a. The Police Report for September was read. On a motion made by John Seese and seconded by Patti O’Keefe and carried, the report was accepted as read. All Supervisors voted aye.

b. The Ambulance Report was read. For the month of September, PMR EMS responded to 53 incidents in Barrett Township, bringing the year-to-date to 398. PMR EMS responded to a total of 654 incidents in August, bringing the year-to-date to 5,159. On a motion made by Pam Gardsy and seconded by Darryl Speicher and carried, the report was accepted as read. All Supervisors voted aye.

c. The Roadmaster’s Report for September 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.

d. The High Acres Park Committee Meeting Minutes from July 30, 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.

Old Business:

a. Pam Gardsy made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 102324, approving the proposed 2025 Budget of the Pocono Mountain Regional Police Department. The motion was seconded by Kelly Slinger and carried. All Supervisors voted aye.

b. It was noted that Kelly Slinger and Jeryl Rinehart will attend the Short-Term Rental Roundtable Discussion on Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at the Monroe County Safety Center.

c. Pam Gardsy gave an update on the revitalization of Canadensis. Zoning Officer Jeryl Rinehart and Building Codes Officer Richard Furs met with the property owners, Moshe and Shoshana Tal, to discuss improving the properties and obtaining the proper permits. A civil hearing is also scheduled for the buildings owned by Pocono USA.

d. The new hire position for the Maintenance Department was tabled for the Executive Session.

e. Pam Gardsy made a motion to approve the Certificate adopting Lansing, NC, as a “sister town” for the hurricane relief efforts. The motion was seconded by Kelly Slinger and carried. All Supervisors voted aye.

New Business:

a. Pam Gardsy made a motion to approve the payroll for October 15, 2024, in the amount of \$ 22,326.8620,767.17 for gross wages, \$ 637.55 for state tax liability, \$ 4,610.13 for federal tax liability and \$ 16,157.04 for net wages. The motion was seconded by Kelly Slinger and carried. All Supervisors voted aye.

b. Pam Gardsy made a motion to approve spending \$ 150.00 on the basket donation for the Barrett Paradise Friendly Library Fundraiser. The motion was seconded by Darryl Speicher and carried. All Supervisors voted aye.

c. Pam Gardsy made a motion to close High Acres Park on Friday, November 1st. The motion was seconded by Kelly Slinger and carried. All Supervisors voted aye.

d. Pam Gardsy made a motion to schedule and advertise the Special Workshop Meeting on Wednesday, November 6, 2024, at 8:00 a.m. for the 2025 Budget. The motion was seconded by John Seese and carried. All Supervisors voted aye.

Correspondence:

a. A letter was received from PA DEP notifying the Supervisors that they issued the N.P.D.E.S. Permit for the Mathewson Home Site on Route 390.

b. A letter was received from PA DEP notifying the Supervisors that they received the application for authority to construct and/or operate under the Air Quality General Plan Approval and Operating Permit for Portable Non-Metallic Mineral Processing Plants for Bill Barry Excavating, Inc.

Miscellaneous:

a. It was noted that a certificate of insurance was received from Pop of Color Décor, LLC.

Pam Gardsy thanked the Rotary Club for their efforts in having a wonderful Halloween Parade.

Karl Stearn thanked the Rotary Club and the Supervisors for addressing his parking concerns during the Halloween Parade.

Kelly Slinger, on behalf of the Rotary Club, thanked the Supervisors for their use of the B.A.R.C., the Maintenance Department for traffic control, and Weiler Abrasives for their sponsorship.

Pam Gardsy made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:51 a.m. to discuss personnel. The motion was seconded by Darryl Speicher and carried. All Supervisors voted aye.

Pam Gardsy made a motion to reconvene the meeting at 10:11 a.m. The motion was seconded by Darryl Speicher and carried. All Supervisors voted aye.

Pam Gardsy made a motion to hire Kevin Seese for the equipment operator with CDL position with the Maintenance Department at a rate of \$ 23.18 per hour. The motion was seconded by Kelly Slinger and carried. All Supervisors voted aye.

Pam Gardsy made a motion to advertise for the part-time park/facility maintenance person position. The motion was seconded by Kelly Slinger and carried. All Supervisors voted aye.

Pam Gardsy made a motion to advertise for the part-time event planner position. The motion was seconded by Kelly Slinger and carried. All Supervisors voted aye.

Pam Gardsy made a motion to accept the retirement of Tom Brush effective on Friday, November 1, 2024. The motion was seconded by Kelly Slinger. John Seese voted nay. The motion carried with a vote of 4-1.

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As there was no further business or public comment, Pam Gardsy made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:13 a.m. The motion was seconded by John Seese and carried. All Supervisors voted aye.

Respectfully Submitted,

Teryl Renhart