

**Barrett Township Supervisors**  
**Minutes of Regular Meeting on March 18, 2026 – 6:30 P.M.**

A Workshop meeting of the Barrett Township Supervisors was held on Wednesday March 18, 2026, at the Administrative Offices on Route 390 in Cresco, PA. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Grant Hilfiger

Present: Grant Hilfiger, Patti O’Keefe, Darryl Speicher, Bill Pipolo, Sean Anlauf, Nichole Irvin, and the public.

Grant Hilfiger began the meeting, reminding those in attendance to speak into the microphone for public comment so that it’s clear for the recording and Zoom.

**1. Holding Tank Ordinance:**

Darryl discussed whether a holding tank could be a temporary option until a more permanent option could be obtained. Grant discussed the possibility of when a property has a septic malfunction that causes the current septic tank to become non-viable; Would a holding tank help to not become condemned due to septic issues until the septic problem could be fixed? He went on to explain that a holding tank would be applied to obtain a permit. The permit would require an alarm when the holding tank was at 80%. The alarm would be audible so that the property owner could hear it. Bill Pipolo stated that PA DEP recognizes holding tanks so there’s no reason why the supervisors shouldn’t be looking at this more seriously.

**Sam Jones: DEP recognizes a type of septic that’s zero effluent septic system and they’re used all over the world. They filter water through coconut fiber and use reverse osmosis to evaporate the water at a very high rate of speed blows the water in steam.**

*Grant asked Sam to send him information.*

**Krista Paolucci: I just think we want to make sure we are doing our due diligence when adopting this one by ensuring that there are setbacks with creeks and waterways.**

*Grant stated that the simple thing about a holding tank is that nothing ever touches the ground*

**Nate Covington: Explained that he had neighbors who were able to make a deal where a neighbor offered a piece of land where they could build a new septic on the neighbors property.**

**2. Ch. 407 Sign Ordinance:**

Darryl Speicher discussed the sign ordinance and that it had been amended to accommodate some of the electronic signs such as the one that BARC has. Another revision purpose was to give the Supervisors the legal “foothole” to enforce property owners to manage their abandoned and dilapidated signs. Grant discussed that other areas of the sign ordinance were discussed such as first amendment rights for free speech and the liability to leave certain items in the ordinance, and certain items out.

**Jeff Stevens – Who enforces signs, who inspects it, who does what?**

*Grant responded that it’s typically through zoning so usually zoning permits are required, unless it involves building then a building permit could be required.*

**Frank DelNero: Stating that 10 days for a completed project is too short for advertisement. 30 days seems fair.**

*Grant and Patti stated that in the new ordinance it will be 30 days.*

**Cindy Philips: If a sign was found to not be in conformance, would there be a time period to correct?**

*Grant: You mean a violation? We will always allow time to fix a sign.*

*Nichole: 30 days is permitted to abate a violation.*

**Peter Pipolo: When we were reviewing it before, if a business moved or was going out of business, would there be a restriction on how long the sign could be in place?**

*Grant stated that if the sign is in good condition, and there is no business there, the sign should be able to stay.*

**Carol Hardy: What are the limitations on a seasonal sign?**

*Grant: It's a temporary sign. Patti: In 407-9 Temporary signs/limited duration, a permit is required for 30 consecutive days no more than 6 times per year.*

**Hazel Gifford: So for eggs, I would need a permit every 30 days?**

*Darryl explained that a permit is good for six 30 consecutive day periods.*

**Frank DelNero: Is there a sign restriction for 8ftx40ft digital message board?**

*Patti found the section of the ordinance that explains the definition of an electronic message board which had dimensions much smaller than. 8x40.*

### **3. Ch. 375 Property Maintenance Ordinance**

Grant briefly discussed that the Property Maintenance Ordinance was reviewed by the Planning Commission which has been completed and it's now back to the Board of Supervisors. Patti O'Keefe discussed how the current proposed property maintenance ordinance came into place integrating the 2024 IPMC adoption with building codes. Grant discussed going over the Planning Commission meeting minutes to review the notes against the proposed ordinance and make a red-line version by the April workshop.

Public Comment:

**Jeff Stevens: Who enforces this?**

**Judy Stevens: How many full-time employees do we have for zoning and building?**

*Grant: Zoning enforces zoning regulations, and the BCO enforces building regulations. We have building codes officer, zoning officer, and alternate zoning and building codes. Grant explained that property maintenance violations aren't meant to be a "money making" grab. We're trying to help residents voluntarily come into compliance.*

**Krista Paolucci: I wanted to make sure that there is an appeal process, and that the township does not allow the cost of the appeal to be in excess.**

*Grant Hilfiger stated that he would look into the cost of the appeals.*

### **4. Short Term Rentals:**

Grant discussed the violation process, including the long process such as going to court in order to find compliance from property owners and encouraged the board to do more research and come back with ideas.

The supervisors discussed that the goal is to increase compliance and continue working with the outside groups such as BTCC.

**Jeff Stevens: Asked about the increased fees and various other questions about short-term rentals.**

*Grant Hilfiger explained that the fees were increased to build staff within the office and tools within the township to help pay for regulation and management. Grant also explained that the Board is trying to update the ordinance to create stronger language.*

**Krista Paolucci: As a property owner who does not have any short-term rentals, I absolutely refute the cost of anyone else's short term rentals. That cost gets passed on to your customers and your rentals.**

*Grant thanked Krista for her comments.*

**Carol Hardy: I wonder if there has been any thought to decrease the number of short-term rentals in Barrett Township.**

**Jenn Amantea: Spoke in great length of her knowledge on short-term rentals in various surrounding municipalities and their regulations, and how they operate or regulate their STR's.**

#### **5. Earth Day – April 25<sup>th</sup>, Pick up the Poconos**

Patti O'Keefe discussed that you can go online to register for the event which will begin at High acres at 9:30am and participants will be assigned to locations. Krista Paolucci volunteered to offer snacks and drinks to volunteers.

#### **6. Meadow – Upper field at BARC**

Darryl recommended growing up a 10x10 area of the grass to grow for ecological growth attracting birds, fireflies, and other habitats. Grant asked if there were cons to mowing the grass in the fall once there is a habitat. Darryl explained that a meadow needs to be mowed anyway because when you let it grow too long, it becomes wooded. As a functional ecosystem it did what it was supposed to do. Grant discussed having the meadow at High Acres Park.

**Sam Jones: the proper way to maintain a meadow is with a sickle bar, not a mower. If you mow a meadow the compost will kill the eggs, if you cut with a sickle bar, everything lays over and just dries.**

**Peter Pipolo: I was just trying to make sure that if there were other events here that may need the upper field, that there wasn't an issue. If there was maybe an event here at BARC in July and they need that upper field that was available. We have hundreds or thousands of other open spaces that have meadows or wildlife.**

#### **7. West Nile Virus hot spot**

Sean Anlauf discussed the hot spot site which was identified at the wastewater treatment facility for Wisteria Commons. Patti O'Keefe reminded not to let standing water stay on your properties.

#### **8. High Acres Park Fishing Contest May 25<sup>th</sup>**

Grant discussed that the park will be stocked with fish for the fishing contest. Patti O'Keefe stated that Trout Unlimited stated that they would donate some fish for the stocking.

**\*\*It was announced by Kelsie Bartholomew with the High Acres Park Committee that the Fishing Contest would be cancelled, unfortunately, due to lack of manpower and volunteers. The ceremony would still be held\*\***

#### **9. April 4<sup>th</sup> – Trout at Ice Lake to be stocked**

Grant discussed that Ice Lake will be stocked for opening day of Trout Season.

**Krista Paolucci: Hive to Harvest purchases about 20 children's fishing poles to give away at the opening day and would like to participate again**

#### **10. America250PA Independence Day Parade – July 4<sup>th</sup> at 10am**

Darryl stated that the Historical Society of Barrett Township would be representing Barrett Township in the parade.

**Krista Paolucci: asked if there was a possibility of volunteers to walk with the float.**

*Darryl said that he would find out.*

#### **11. Building and Tenant Supervisor assignment**

Grant discussed the creation of the Building and Tenant Supervisor liaison who would be able to identify and report to the board any concerns at BARC. One of the supervisors would be appointed to this position and would be on the meeting agenda for March 25, 2026.

#### **12. SOS Pet Rescue**

Grant explained that SOS Pet Rescue would like to have a micro-chip and vaccine event at BARC. Patti O'Keefe came up with a list of questions such as: **Do they have liability insurance? Yes, they do. Will they have a licensed vet administering the services. Yes. Rabies and distemper. In case of reaction, do they have resuscitation equipment? Yes. In case of reaction do they have allergic reaction drugs? Yes. Do they have records of vaccines, manufacturers, and lot numbers? Yes, they do it through the vet, however everyone signs a waiver. Is it open to everybody? Yes. Is a donation required? No.**

Grant explained that he encouraged SOS Pet Rescue to come to a supervisor's meeting to ask the board.

#### **13. Admin Office Supervisor assignment**

Darryl and Grant discussed the possibility of reorganizing the Admin Office supervisor from Darryl to another supervisor. Darryl stated that he has had discussions with the office staff about possibly changing the supervisor.

#### **14. Allocation of Supervisor Duties:**

Grant discussed reorganization of the supervisor duties now that there is a board of 5, and new supervisors have filled vacancies on the board.

**Krista Paolucci: How many of the duties did Pam fill before?**

*Grant explained that they weren't extra duties. They are all specific liaison roles that each supervisor is assigned to as a person to report back to the board from another entity that works with the Township.*

#### **15. Barrett Website – Scope of work? Bids?**

Grant discussed that he would like to have the website updated, and have bids put out with different quotes and offers. Grant stated that he took notes of developers that built neighboring townships websites, as well as questions and something that would be user friendly so that staff and supervisors can operate the website too.

#### **Public Comment:**

**Carla Price: Do you need a fishing license to fish at Ice Lake or High Acres?**

*The supervisors said yes, but if you're under 16 no.*

The supervisors workshop was adjourned at 8:16PM.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nichole Irvin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

Nichole Irvin

Zoning Officer/Recording Secretary