

**Barrett Township Supervisors**  
**Minutes of Workshop Meeting of January 21, 2026 – 6:30 P.M.**

A Workshop Meeting of the Barrett Township Supervisors was held on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at the Barrett Administrative and Recreation Center on Route 390 in Cresco, PA. The Supervisors met at 6:30 PM

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

Absent: Pam Gardsy

Guest: Todd Weitzmann, Township Solicitor

-What is a Workshop?

Grant Hilfiger began the Supervisors workshop with discussion on “What is a workshop?” Grant Hilfiger described a workshop as the meeting where discussion is held on building codes, short-term rentals, etc. However, no decisions and motions are made.

- Grant noted that Todd Weitzmann would be arriving later around 7:00 PM. At that time the supervisors would enter executive session for a period.

- Discussion on Supervisor Vacancy

Grant had open discussion on the consideration of 11 candidates who applied for the vacant supervisor position: Nicole Prussman, Ralph Megliola, Bill Pipolo, Mary Greenan, John Donahue, Sean Anlauf, Mylee Staples, David Kniper, Arthur Fetzer, Christopher Gifford, and Greg Lewis.

Darryl Speicher stated that he met with several of the candidates who applied and has welcomed the comments from the public on who they would like to see fill the position as well. He said he is keeping an open mind based on experience and background.

Patti O’Keefe stated she also met with candidates and read letters that were submitted in support of a candidate. She feels that credence should be given to a candidate who has ran and completed the paperwork based on their desire to be a Supervisor and experience.

Grant Hilfiger stated that he feels a candidate who is heavily involved in the community and attends the Supervisors meetings would be beneficial. Having past experience or governmental experience is important to him as well and having the time of day such as being active and hands on part of the role. Grant mentioned various other aspects of what makes the candidate a good fit such as building maintenance, human resources, and office management experience. Grant discussed some of the candidates’ strengths and weaknesses. Grant stated that he feels Bill Pipolo is the best candidate.

At this time Grant also addressed the residents who were present that the Board will recognize them if they want to speak or have something to say to avoid cross conversations during the meeting.

Public comment by Mark Fisher, asking “how many supervisor vacancies will we be filling in the next month?” Grant said that the Supervisors couldn’t accept anything at the workshop but stated that there will be two positions filled. Only one of them will be filled next week [Jan. 28, 2026, Spvr. Mtg.] There was further public comment discussion on whether Pam Gardsy would be present at the next meeting to vote on the supervisor and what would happen if there was a 2 to 2 vote split? Grant explained that Drew Price is the person the Township calls in to break ties.

Patti O’Keefe explained that the Supervisor position that is currently open is for a 2-year term. If a candidate is not chosen this time, she encourages candidates to run for election because the positions will be open again in 2027 for public election. She additionally reminded that she campaigned for Sean Anlauf during his Supervisor Campaign pointing towards him as her possible choice for Supervisor. She also pointed out that Billy Pipolo and Ralph Megliola haven’t always been present or available for their attendance at the Planning Commission meetings which is a concern of hers as candidates.

As a public comment, Bill Pipolo stated that as a supervisor in the past, he made himself available at 98% of the meetings. Additional public comment by Mark Fisher stated that Ralph Megliola and Billy Pipolo are likely able to work their schedules to be in the building at BARC when they need to. It was mentioned by Carol Hardy that maybe it was possible to consider a candidate that has not previously been a supervisor. Gerri Murphy asked if the Meeting that the Supervisor appointment would take place could be an evening meeting instead of a morning meeting? Grant decided to maintain the meeting schedules. Public comments made by Jenn Amantea stated that it was her opinion it would be irresponsible to place an inexperienced candidate in the position, such as someone who has not previously been a supervisor, due to the “growing pains” the Township is currently facing. Someone who has already faced these struggles would be a better fit. Grant thanked her for the comments.

### Short Term Rentals

Grant explained that Barrett Township was one of the first Townships in the area to “jump” into a STR ordinance. However, due to the evolution of STRs, he shared an idea about the idea of an advisory board or committee that would adapt to the Sunshine Law to discuss ideas, ordinances, complaints, etc. The advisory board or committee could benefit from the Township by educating everyone on everything STRs. Darryl Speicher mentioned that the Country of Spain, in concern to short-term rentals, opened a lawsuit against Airbnb for 65 million euros for allowing illegal, unregistered, and fraudulent Airbnb’s on their platform. Additionally, he stated that Barcelona banned and eliminated 10,000 properties initially listed as STRs. Darryl pointed toward the fact that STRs drive up the cost of housing which has shown its impact in families who want to raise a family in Barrett Township as well – So the regulation of these properties is something that were taking very seriously.

Public comment by Jason Delp asked how many people would be involved in the advisory board? Grant stated that 5 people would likely be the number of people on the board.

Public comment by Carol Hardy asked if Barrett ever outlawed Airbnb’s? Grant and Patti explained that Barrett has never outlawed them – Paradise Twp has restricted them, however. When the ordinance was written, they were already here, so the owners were informed that they needed to have a permit.

Public comment by Jason Delp stated that Airbnbs in Hamilton Township were restricted to certain areas, like the casino. Grant said thank you and he understood that thinking.

Public comment by Gerri Murphy stated that she feels there is a lot of work put into ordinances that are never followed through on, and violations that are not followed through. Grant stated that some of the ordinances don’t have the “traction” to follow through, or they have to go straight to district court which makes the process lengthy – so that makes it important to update the ordinances as new ideas come along.

Gerri Murphy followed up asking who is responsible for making sure a STR is compliant? Grant explained processes out of the ordinance that currently exist, and separate groups that have been working with the Township to assist with STRs. Gerri Murphy asked if there was so many STRs that there was a need to fill a position for just STRs. Grant stated that the Township needed to fill the spots that were currently empty like the BCO.

Public comment by Bill Pipolo stated that at the time the STR ordinance was very strong when it was adopted, but over time it was only as strong as the people enforcing it. Grant stated that the Board of Supervisors is responsible for employees and subcontractors doing their jobs.

Public comment by Jenn Amantea stated that the STR information that Barrett Township has would be great to have for STR committees so that it can be passed on to buyers, investors, and realtors, eliminating many issues. Grant stated that the Barrett STR advisory group would be documented with meeting minutes, zoom, videos, etc.

### Executive Session

Grant Hilfiger made a motion to enter executive session at 7:11PM to discuss personnel and Hive to Harvest v. Barrett Twp litigation. The motion was seconded by Patti O’Keefe. As there were no objections, the motion carried.

Grant Hilfiger made a motion to reconvene at 7:55PM. The motion was seconded by Patti O’Keefe. All supervisors voted aye and the motion carried.

### Building Codes Officer

Grant discussed the BCO applicants which were Advanced Code and BIU. Darryl Speicher stated that Price Twp and Paradise Twp utilize BIU. However Advanced Code offered more array of options the Township could take advantage of that BIU didn’t offer. Grant stated that BIU did not offer any enforcement, when Advanced Code said that they would. Grant stated that he was in favor of Advanced Code, adding that they can do STR inspections. Patti O’Keefe stated that she agreed Advanced Code was more user friendly, as well as her first option.

Public comment by Mark Fisher asked – Is the BCO expected to be “head on a swivel” where they’re hired to go? Grant explained that he expects the BCO not to have a blind eye to obvious violations that are within eyesight.

Public comment by Bill Pipolo asked – You said BIU is in Paradise? You may want to look into them. Barrett used to have them, and it didn’t work out well. Grant responded that he is solely interested in Advanced Code.

Public comment by Krista Paolucci asked if Barrett specifically reached out to organizations and asked them to bid? Grant stated that the vacancy was posted in a few places and when the applications incoming were slow he posted it on social media and reached out to other townships and let them know that we were looking for a new BCO. Grant also stated that they check off all the boxes where Barrett has a requirement.

### Letter to PennDOT

Grant Hilfiger discussed drafting a letter to Monroe County PennDOT to address concerns about state roads in Barrett Township. He encouraged residents to let the supervisors know when they have a specific concern about a state road so the supervisors can add it to their list of weekly letters to the State.

Public comment by Krista Paolucci offered a suggestion about adding a form to the Barrett website where a resident could leave information about a road concern.

### Grant Writing Job Description

Grant briefly discussed 3<sup>rd</sup> party outsourcing for the position as well as stating that Darryl has been working on a description of the position which would be discussed at a future meeting or workshop

Grant discussed the Solar credit, and the LSA grant has been awarded but there are second parts that need to be completed.

### Employee Handbook

Adding Grant Writer to the Handbook, acknowledgement of receiving the handbook – employees signing the handbook, staff meetings separated by maintenance and BARC staff.

### Fee Schedule

BARC Fee Schedule

All services offered

STR Fees + proposed re-inspection fees

Zoning and Building permit fees

Park and BARC rental fees

Public comment by Jenn Amantea asking if Barrett has a violation fee? Grant explained that the violation fees are set in an ordinance.

### Cameras and Audio at BARC Meeting Room

Grant explained the function of the Blink cameras the Township currently uses which record by motion sensor only. Grant proposed hard-wired security cameras to provide more security for the employees, tenants, and community.

Public comment by Jason Delp stated that he requested records of the cameras at BARC and stated that the quality of video the Blink cameras have are not great. Grant stated that he had them in residential uses for his private use.

Grant proposed doing research to find cost effective hard-wired security cameras for BARC as well as better recording equipment for the public meetings.

### Barrett Township Website

Upgrading and improving the Barrett Township website. The supervisors discussed seeking professional quotes to improve transparency and making it more user friendly. Darryl also added that it is important to keep it user friendly for office staff to continue making updates without making service calls. Additionally, they discussed making it more ADA friendly.

### Staff Meetings

The supervisors discussed weekly staff meetings to keep communication structured between staff and the supervisors.

A public comment by Carol Hardy stated that a member of the Barrett Road crew wasn't sure about overtime regulations. Darryl Speicher explained the situation, and provided clarification.

### Supervisor Office Hours

Grant proposed to the BOS to implement office hours 1 hour or so before the meeting if there is a resident who would like to meet with a supervisor prior to a meeting if they wanted. Darryl also discussed a "Meet the Supervisors" event.

### Future Workshops

Grant discussed implementation of agendas at workshops, although they are not required by the Sunshine Act. He discussed that any agenda produced with a meeting that followed, the residents should know that its possible not all topics may be discussed. Grant discussed that he wants all the residents to know what is being discussed.

### Solar ROI

Grant discussed the transparency about the solar panels at BARC and the information the Township has been able to obtain since having them (past power bills vs. current, pros vs. cons, etc.). He also discussed uploading information about them on the Barrett website and including a picture of them.

### Rotary Car Show proposed car show dates

June 12, 2026

Rain date: June 13, 2026

### Sign Ordinance

Grant discussed revisiting the Barrett Sign Ordinance to ensure it doesn't fall off the radar.

### Holding Tank Ordinance

Grant discussed revisiting the Barrett Holding Tank Ordinance. Darryl Speicher discussed getting in touch with the township engineer, Deanna Schmoyer, who was working with the Township on the ordinance before.

Donation Request Letter from Historical Society

The request was tabled by the previous board, Grant asked Patti if she could send the request to him so that he could review it.

Grant asked the public to ask about getting on the agenda if they have “hot topics” to discuss so that the supervisors have time ahead to provide thoughtful answers.

Public Comment:

Gerri Murphy – Is there anyway we can move the 8am meetings to the evening?

*Grant explained that at the reorganization meetings the 8am time was approved to ensure those who could not make the night meetings were accounted for. He also discussed taking “attendance” to see if the 8am meetings are well attended to justify considering a time change.*

Carol Hardy: Can the other meetings be on a regular time, so we don’t have to guess?

*Grant explained that those board make their own times and schedules, and those attendees should request time changes. Darryl explained that when the EAC meetings move back to BARC, they will be at 6:30pm. He also explained how EAC came to be at Evergreen school.*

Rich: Can you try to put the agenda out 2-3 days ahead?

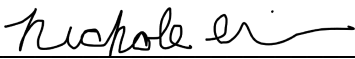
*Grant discussed the purpose of the agenda being published 24 hours in advance.*

Krista Paolucci: Discussed the Pocono Township agenda and how they attach meeting documents with their agenda. Krista also discussed that they contracted with Ehrlich for maintenance and have recently caught a mouse in a bucket as well as nests. She mentioned township maintenance equipment items in the storage space where she requested them to be moved to better help the mouse problem.

*Grant asked her to send a list of items she needs addressed.*

The supervisors workshop adjourned at 9:00pm.

**Respectfully submitted,**



Nichole Irvin

Zoning Officer/Recording Secretary