

Barrett Township Supervisors
Minutes of Workshop Meeting of November 19, 2025 – 6:30 PM

A Workshop Meeting of the Barrett Township Supervisors was held on Wednesday, October 19, 2025, at the Administrative Offices on Route 390 in Cresco, PA. The Supervisors met at 6:30 PM

Present: Pam Gardsy, Grover Cleveland, Patti O'Keefe, Kelly Slinger, Darryl Speicher, Nichole Irvin, and the public.

Guest: Judy Linder, Bookkeeper and Claudia Shoesmith, Bookkeeper

Absent: Kelly Slinger

Pam Gardsy began the Supervisors workshop by mentioning the passing of Karl Stearns over the weekend. Pam stated that he was an active member of the Barrett Township Community including his involvement with BEDCo., and the Pocono Mountain Theater Group.

Pam Gardsy began discussion on the Barrett 2026 Budget Worksheets.

- The first budget item was the State Fund which provides funding for paving, fuel for maintenance equipment, electricity for streetlights, and road maintenance. The budget was balanced going into 2026.
- Grover Cleveland reported that the fire fund remained the same with no increases or changes going into 2026.
- Pam Gardsy stated that some of the Park and Rec funds have changed some. There were funds that needed to be borrowed from Road Machinery for Park and Rec due to lack of funds at the end of the year. Now Park and Rec are well funded, and Road Machinery needs to be funded, so funds were moved back to Road Machinery to balance the budget into 2026.
- The open space fund is defined by 25% of tax money to use on maintenance of open space properties. The budget was balanced going into 2026
- Pam Gardsy spoke about building up the Road Machinery account to replace older Township equipment. There was a deficit going into 2026 for the proposed spending compared to current funds, with the intent to build the account to cover proposed needs.
- Pam Gardsy explained that whatever funds come in as taxes for the library, get written out to the library. The 2026 fund was balanced.
- Pam Gardsy explained that whatever funds come in as taxes for the Ambulance Fund, get written out to the Ambulance fund. The 2026 fund was balanced.
- Pam Gardsy discussed the LST fund and it's uses for police services, control center fees, fire hydrant fees, snow and ice removal, etc.

General Fund Worksheet 2026

- Judy Linder stated that there were not many changes, however the interest rates have gone down so the funds for interest have gone down as well.
- Judy Linder discussed the income at BARC from leases, and other activities available, projecting that they should go up in 2026.
- Pam Gardsy discussed the LSA Grant for \$600k which will fund a building generator for BARC to become an emergency shelter. \$170k was received for the LSA Grant, another LSA Grant was applied for in the amount of \$280K with an additional community fund to cover the remaining.
- PPL Solar credit: At tax time the Township will receive over \$200k (for the installation of solar panels at BARC)
- Judy Linder explained that the snow removal expenses are zero because they come out of the LST fund.

Judy Linder stated that she has been doing the books for 15 years in Barrett Township and the Township has not raised local taxes since 2013 since a Park and Rec tax was added on.

Due to the Township being \$8k in the positive, the BOS added those funds to Maintenance and Repairs.

Pam Gardsy explained that at the next meeting on November 26, the Budget would be announced for advertising and on display for 20 days with the changes discussed at this meeting.

Darryl Specier explained that the road crew would be mowing the Gravel preserve soon.

Pam Gardsy said that the Craft fair was a success with 104 vendors.

Pam Gardsy said that Breakfast with Santa is on December 13 at BARC

Public Comment:

Mary Greenan: The permits proposed are going up, is that because of the rise of fees, or because you think there will be an increase in building permit applications?

Pam Gardsy: The numbers are gauged off this year. The numbers you see are from Jan-Sept.

Mary Greenan: Based on the current legal issues the Township is facing, and the number you have there (on the budget for 2026), are you thinking that you think it needs to be increased for the 2026 budget?

The supervisors in discussion with Judy Linder increased the budget from \$30k to \$40k

Grant Hilfiger: Can you explain \$185k in "Capital Improvements"?

Pam Gardsy/Judy Linder: they were the solar panels.

Grant Hilfiger: The budget was \$600k, but you only spent \$38k, now you want to propose \$605k?

Pam: That was for the generator. We still have to budget for it. If it doesn't come in. It doesn't go out.

Grant Hilfiger: Last year we budgeted \$26k for planning/zoning and only used \$24k. Why are we seeing that we're going to need another \$21k?

Pam: Zoning used to be part time. Jeryl used to be SEO and Zoning Officer. So half was under zoning, half was under SEO. Now we have full time Zoning.

Claudia: You can also see on the page before that the SEO salary wage is at zero, so it balances out.

Carla Price: On page 6 for clean-up, you have \$10k, for the 6 Saturdays that you do... Is that considered to be cut? Jeff (Carla Prices Husband) said that the last 3 clean ups that everyone is just standing around and there is nothing to do.

Pam: We are proposing 5 for next year, there's a line item for income that balances out this one.

Pam explained that she is in the office for the clean ups, so she sees the people that come out for the clean ups, and that the residents are so grateful for all the cleanups!

Resident: In the clean-ups how much was brought in, where can we find that?

Pam explained that she has that, it's just not in the budget.

Grant Hilfiger: Total debt interest: There are 2 line items for that.

Judy Linder explained that they are the principal and the interest shown separately.

Grant Hilfiger: Do we have a projected highway project that is going to keep the proposed 2026 rental budget so high? (\$20k)

Darryl: I think the purpose of keeping it high is because there are things that come up that you can't predict. The road crew really needs new equipment.

Grant Hilfiger: Does the Township have a rental that they are looking to use?

The supervisors realized it was a typo, and should only be \$2000

Carla Price (to Nichole Irvin, Zoning Officer): The STR that you and I keep going back and forth on is going to be rented out this weekend. Will it be shut down by then?

*Nichole Irvin: *Explained that the Certified letter went out to the property owner on November 14, and just reached a USPS mail distribution center today**

There was on-going conversation between the Zoning Officer and Carla Price regarding Short Term Rentals

Jenn Amantea offered her comments on short-term rentals as well as suggestions.

Gary Pope: Is it possible to hire a constable to get letters and fines issued to property owners?

Pam/Grover: Yes, we have done that in the past.

Resident: What is stopping Barrett from contacting Airbnb or VRBO and letting them know that certain properties are illegal or not registered?

Bos: That's a great idea

Grant Hilfiger: With building code enforcement, you can't occupy a building with a CO, etc. They'll put that big red letter on the door. If you put a red letter on the door of a STR, the renter of an STR may not feel comfortable renting that property.

Carla Price: Is there a way that we can set something up here (at BARC) to research Airbnb's?

The BOS agreed that it's a great idea

Michael: I live on Oak Lane, I was wondering if it was possible to get volunteer FD or police, or speed bumps during Halloween?

Pam: In advance of Halloween we should have a plan.

*Christine Esposito *on zoom* Agreeing with the short term rental comments.*

Respectfully submitted,



Nichole Irvin

Zoning Officer/Recording Secretary