

Commissioners of Barnesville

Called to order at 7:31pm

November minutes approved with few changes

Financial Report reviewed.

Beautification and Sustainable Barnesville had no report.

Board of Appeals- The board decided the property owners at 22420 Old Hundred Road would need to apply for a new special exception for the proposed bird rehabilitation facility.

Planning and Zoning- The planning commission is looking to meet in January 2026.

Capital improvements. In the next few months, more framed artwork is planned. Bids for upgraded AV equipment are being sought.

Traffic Calming. 151 tickets issued in November. Fastest speeds were 65-67mph. The guardrail damage from April is flagged and scheduled for possible repair during the week. Feldman's office was contacted and was able to get the repair on the list for repair.

Community Connections. Town Holiday Party is scheduled for Dec 21 at 5pm. Santa will be there with treat bags for children. A light dinner fare will be served. All are welcome.

Town Hall had no rental activity.

Community Guest Speakers.

- 1) Jim Brown of Commissioners of Poolesville provided updates on activities by the commissioners. (a) Fair Access Committee is for all of the western portion of the county and welcomes input from the Barnesville community. Poolesville Seniors group and WUMCO are two groups also available for Barnesville participation. (b) The PFAS concern for Poolesville water supply led to a remediation project with the state. (c) Poolesville Cultural Arts District will be in the area near Bassetts as a walkable downtown area with cultural arts programming. (d) Community Center and a Pool Bubble are proposed with the county to provide year-round recreation activities for area residents. (e) Beauty Spot/ Rosenwald School was dedicated as a historic area. (f) Artificial turf field at the high school is supported by the PHS boosters and MCPS. The proposed project includes stormwater reclamation, no PFAS, and decreased injury rates for athletes. (g) Poolesville has no official position at this time on the proposed data center near the coal power plant. (h) Whites Ferry discussions with the property owners and Poolesville in order to reopen the ferry as its operation provides income to businesses in town. (i) Grocery store access remains in discussion. Dollar General has

been very successful in Poolesville. Bringing in a larger retailer will probably not happen, the area does not support a store given the small margins in the industry.

- 2) Maria Bardos of <https://visitmontgomery.com/> (a 501c org) spoke about the county's destination marketing program. Residents are encouraged to visit the site. Presentation included information about the Branding of rural Montgomery with a goal to position the region for sustainable development and marketing to those who visit rural spaces. Economic Development Grants administered to promote the designated ag area and all it has to offer. Basic principles in the marketing plan: Land unfiltered, Explore deeply, Celebrate community and crafts, Be stewards for the space.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:45pm

Attendees: 7 in person, including commissioners MZ and MO. 6 on zoom, including commissioner AZ