

BUCKS COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Bucks County Association of Township Officials was held on Wednesday, December 11, 2019 at 12:00 p.m.

MEMBERS: *Joseph DiGirolamo, Bensalem Township
Maggie Rash, Buckingham Township
Barbara Lyons, Doylestown Township
Kathy Gentner, Durham Township
David Nyman, East Rockhill Township
*Kathy Babb, Haycock Township
Tom Courduff, Milford Township
William Jones, New Britain Township
Dick Weaver, Newtown Township
*David Long, Springfield Township
Diana Nolan, Upper Makefield Township
Dan McPhillips, Warminster Township
*Judith Algeo, Warwick Township
*Don Duval, West Rockhill Township
*Chester Pogonowski, Wrightstown Township
Terry Clemons, Clemons Richter & Reiss, P.C.
*Vince Deon, Northampton Township
Amy Schreiber, Executive Director

*NOT PRESENT

1. Call to Order: President Dan McPhillips called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

2. Dan Mc Phillips started the meeting and since we were waiting on a few Commissioners he went off agenda and started with approval of the minutes.

3. Approval of the Minutes – November 13, 2019

MOTION: A motion was made by Ms. Lyons and, seconded by Ms. Nolan to approve the minutes of November 13, 2019. The motion carried unanimously

4. Treasurer's Report – November 2019:

Mr. Weaver presented the financial statements for November 2019. Mr. Weaver stated that the organization was in good financial standing with total current assets at \$82,974.67. He announced that Dunlap once again invoiced BCATO \$420 as an in-kind accounting service. In discussion of the Annual Budget, Mr. Weaver stated that he is continuing to work with Amy Schreiber and in January will have the 2020 budget to be considered for approval.

MOTION: A motion was made by Bill Jones, seconded by Dave Nyman to approve the November 2019 Financial Statements. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Executive Director Report

Ms. Amy Schreiber started with a report of the BCATO's website google analytics and shared that visitors to the website has doubled and that the average time the visitors stayed on the site increased by 2 and a half minutes. She pointed out once again that the talking points for the Sterling Act with a link to the "one-pager" of a breakout of how much municipalities are losing to the Philadelphia Wage Tax is listed to use when advocacy with elected officials. Ms. Schreiber also shared that Maggie Rash has been kind enough to go over the website with a fine-tooth comb and is listing outdated information and other changes that need to be made in the next website update. In discussion of 2020 Sponsors, Ms. Schreiber shared that meetings, calls and emails have been made to all past 2019 Sponsors and with the past November election was concerned that sponsorship could be down, however, good news is that we seem to be trending "on track" of last years fundraising track. She also shared that the few sponsors that are not locked down are not "no's" but are still pending. Lastly, she shared, that she has been continuing to work with Mr. Weaver on the 2020 Preliminary Budget. She shared that with this past November's election there are many new Supervisors, and many are familiar with BCATO and she is concerned that revenue from Membership Dues most likely will be a bit down this year and the 2020 Budget will be more conservative. However, with Ms. Rash agreeing to personally reach-out to all newly elected Supervisors to introduce herself and our organization and announcing our plans for an upcoming "Boot Camp" hopefully that will not be the case and Municipalities will understand BCATO's value.

2. Introduction of the Commissioners (back on agenda)

In retuning back to the Agenda, Mr. McPhillips introduced County Commissioners, Charles Martin and Robert Loughery and Anna Payne, Executive Assistant to Commissioner Diane Marseglia who could not attend due to being in Harrisburg. Commissioner Martin then shared that he feels the Bucks County Association of Township Officials is the best in the state. Mr. Nyman thanked Commissioner Martin for his years of service to Bucks County and being a champion of the “open space” initiatives especially in Milford Township. Diana Nolan then thanked Mr. Martin for keeping Bucks County beautiful and a wonderful place to live and raise a family. Anna Payne introduced herself and shared that she is also a newly elected Supervisor from Middletown Township. Ms. Payne shared that she was unfamiliar with BCATO prior to being invited to the Executive Meeting and was excited to learn more about the organization and is interested in the up-coming “Boot Camp”. Mr. Loughery then thanked everyone around the table for assisting him in his role of Commissioner and doing their part in keeping Bucks County a great place to work and live. He shared that when he was first elected, he pledged to visit all 54 of the municipalities and he thought he could do it in one year but, it took two. He further shared some of the joint success of the \$5 vehicle fee to fix our bridges for safety and collaborative efforts in combatting the opioid crisis. Ms. Lyons shared that he has a lot of friends here to help in his new endeavors and Mr. Nyman shared his appreciation for Mr. Loughery’s leadership especially within the Planning Commission and knitting together the efforts with the municipalities.

6. Legislative Update

Mr. Nyman shared that he met with Representative Frank Farry concerning the Sterling Act. Representative Farry shared that a vote on this type of legislation would not be until mid to late January. Mr. Nyman shared why the school districts don’t seem as concerned about the wage tax was because the state reimburses 80% of the loss of revenue, and now with Commissioner Martin now on the Centennial School Board he was happy to bring that fact to his attention. Mr. Nyman then shared his concern over Representative Todd Polinchock’s current bill that overrides municipalities zoning ordinances. Mr. Terry Clemons shared that this bill is very sweeping and has drafted a letter stating BCATO’s concern. Ms. Lyons read aloud the last sentence of the bill which states that “no local government can override the state law. Mr. Nyman shared that this bill is “drafted” for a problem in Hilltown not a county of

statewide problem. Ms. Lyons stated that BCATO is standing together in a negative way on this piece of legislation and the Board agreed.

7. Other Business

Ms. Lyons asked about the email BCATO received as being “The Best OF” and that maybe we can highlight that publicly with a press release and some pictures. Ms. Rash and Ms. Schreiber stated that they will “vet” this business more to see the legitimacy of this award offer. Mr. Nyman offered to run it by the folks at PSATS. Dan McPhillips stated that it was his honor to serve as the BCATO President and shared his joint accomplishments in working with the association. Mr. McPhillips also asked the Board to commission David Nyman in a leadership role in 2020 as he has been so very instrumental in advancing BCATO’s mission. Mr. Nyman and Ms. Lyons thanked Mr. McPhillips for his leadership as BCATO President.

8. Adjournment:

With no further business, a motion was made by Maggie Rash and seconded by Diana Nolan to adjourn the meeting at 12:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Schreiber
Executive Director