



Bucks County Association of Township Officials

BUCKS COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Bucks County Association of Township Officials was held via Zoom on Wednesday, May 18, 2022, at 12:00 p.m.

MEMBERS:

*Joseph DiGirolamo, Bensalem Township
Maggie Rash, Buckingham Township
*Barbara Lyons, Doylestown Township
Ken Lichtenstein, Plumstead
David Nyman, East Rockhill Township
*Kathy Babb, Haycock Township
William Jones, New Britain Township
Dick Weaver, Newtown Township
Ruth Schemm, Warrington
Judith Algeo, Warwick Township
Chester Pogonowski, Wrightstown Township
*Terry Clemons, Clemons Richter & Reiss, P.C.
*Vince Deon, Northampton Township
Fred Gaines, Warrington Township
Tom Cino, Upper Makefield Township
Jim Hopkins, Springfield Township
Stacey Mulholland, Executive Director

*NOT PRESENT

1. Call to Order: President Maggie Rash called the Executive Board Zoom meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes – of April 20, 2022.

MOTION: A motion by Mr. Jones and seconded by Mr. Lichtenstein to approve the minutes of April 20, 2022; Motion carried unanimously.

3. Treasurer’s Report – April 2022:

Mr. Weaver presented the April financials for review.

MOTION: A motion by Ms. Algeo, seconded by Mr. Nyman to approve the April 2022 Financial Statements; Motion carried unanimously.

4. President’s Report

A. BCATO Board of Directors terms for 2023

Ms. Rash reminded the Board that per the bylaws change approved at the 2022 Annual Convention, the one-year Board member term has been extended to a term of three years. In an effort to prevent a complete turnover of the Board annually, the bylaws also provided that the terms be staggered. The 2023 BCATO Board of Director ballot will consist of twelve director seats with four members for a specific term category: one-year term, two-year term, or three-year term. Ms. Rash informed the Board that although her goal was to present the Board with a list of directors and their current township elected term expirations corresponding to their BCATO term expirations, unfortunately the terms did not align. After discussion as to how to fairly align directors with the staggered BCATO term, it was determined by consensus that a lottery would be most fair and practical.

5. Executive Directors Report

A. PSATS Flagger Class – Ms. Mulholland informed the board that PSATS had reached out to see if BCATO would be able to assist in securing a location for a county-wide Flagger Certification class. Ms. Mulholland was able to secure a free, central location that met the specifications for the class. The program will be held on June 22, 2022, at the Bucks County Public Safety Training Center in Doylestown due to the support

and generosity of Director Rich Vona. Notification for the program will be included in the May E-Newsletter. Registration is through PSATS.

- B. **EV Charging Station Presentation**-EV charging stations have been an area of interest among the Board members. Following the PSATS Conference, Upper Makefield officials had been contacted by PA Rep. Scott Petri (Ret.) on this issue. Mr. Petri was redirected to Ms. Mulholland. Ms. Mulholland had a Zoom call with Mr. Petri and his associate Kevin Woznicki of Park Trans Solutions. Ms. Mulholland informed the board that Mr. Petri and Mr. Woznicki have offered to host a meeting for the membership on this issue and include information on grants and funding opportunities. In addition, Ms. Mulholland informed the board that PA State Senator Steve Santarsiero recently held a webinar on the same issue. Mr. Gaines shared Solicitor Clemons's office has been engaged on the issue as it pertains to several zoning concerns in Warrington Township. Following discussion, Ms. Mulholland was directed to plan for a Zoom "Lunch and Learn" on the issue and to include Bucks County TMA along with outreach to Solicitor Clemons and PA State Senator Santarsiero.
- C. **Update on outstanding Annual Dues, Legislative Initiative, Legal Defense**- As has been previously reported, all 29 municipalities pay the \$100 Annual Dues however, eight municipalities have not contributed to the Legal Defense Fund and five of those municipalities also did not contribute to the Legislative Initiative. While awaiting feedback from the municipalities strictly supporting the Annual Dues, Ms. Mulholland suggested converting the Legislative Initiative Fund to a Municipal Initiative Fund. This would provide a funding stream to support benefits directly impacting member municipalities such as donations to local nonprofits for member recognition which have replaced award plaques, support for Bucks municipalities during times of natural disaster, and the municipal internship scholarships. The Board was supportive of the transition but directed Ms. Mulholland to revise the fee structure to one fee for \$300 which includes the categories of Annual Dues, Legal Defense, and Municipal Initiative. The Board also suggested an education piece explaining the benefits of the BCATO membership and all funds.
- D. BCATO Hospitality Suite- Ms. Mulholland reported that there was robust attendance for lunch on Monday and Tuesday. Ms. Mulholland suggested some cost cutting measures for 2023.

6. **Solicitors Report-** No report submitted

7. **Legislative Business-** No report submitted

8. Other Business

- A. **June meeting note-** Ms. Mulholland informed the board of guest presenters scheduled for the June meeting. Police Chief Joe Bartorilla, Middletown Township will provide an update on the township's Police Department's recently adopted Co-Responder program. Nick Valla, Assistant Township Manager, Middletown, will discuss the Governor's Local Government Excellence award-winning program on Innovative Land Use Planning and Climate Action Plan.
- B. Mr. Gaines brought forth a discussion about the recent news articles on the potential sale of Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority (BCWSA) specifically, should it be sold to an investor-owned utility versus a public utility. Mr. Hopkins suggested the Pennsylvania Municipal Authority Association as a valuable resource for information on the issue. Both Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Gaines shared their experience from their private sector work in the water and sewer industry.

MOTION: A motion by Ms. Schemm seconded by Mr. Jones to send correspondence to the Bucks County Commissioners outlining concerns.

Mr. Hopkins offered to draft an education-based document that could serve as a letter in the future but could first educate the BCATO Executive Board on the issues. **Following discussion, Ms. Schemm and Mr. Jones withdrew their motion pending receipt of Mr. Hopkins's document.**

Ms. Schemm expressed interest in reaching out to the Commissioners. As part of the continuing discussion, members noted that several BCATO member townships did not have water or sewer service provided by BCWSA. Ms. Mulholland suggested that perhaps instead of BCATO sending correspondence to the Commissioners from BCATO, Mr. Hopkins' document could be converted into a resolution for individually affected municipalities wishing to express their concerns.

9. Adjournment With no further business, a Rash/Jones motion was carried to adjourn the Zoom meeting at 1:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacey Mulholland
Executive Director