



# Bucks County Association of Township Officials

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## BUCKS COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Bucks County Association of Township Officials was held via Zoom on Wednesday, June 15, 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. Special Guests: Middletown Township Police Chief Joe Bartorilla and Co-Responder Jessica Manzo** provided the BCATO Executive Board of Directors insight into the newly expanded Bucks County Co-Responder program. Middletown and Falls Townships were added following Bensalem's successful launch of the program in 2019. Co-Responders support law enforcement by diverting people in need of social services to the appropriate resources and away from the criminal justice system. Currently, the co-responders' expenses are grant-funded through Bucks County. The co-responders are County employees and deployed in the participating police departments. Supervisor Judith Algeo inquired about methods for measuring the program's success. Co-responder Manza explained there is a database used to help track calls and measure success. Reports will continue to be compiled. Chief Bartorilla mentioned there is support to further expand the program. He expressed his appreciation for the Middletown Township administration's support and for Commissioner Marseglia's outreach in facilitating the effort.

### **Climate Action Plan and Implementation Update**

**Nick Valla, Assistant Township Manager for Middletown Township** shared a presentation on the Township's plan, recognized by Governor Tom Wolf and the Department of Community and Economic Development., which is available at the Middletown Township website.

**3. Approval of the Minutes – of May 18, 2022.**

**MOTION:** A motion by Mr. Nyman and seconded by Mr. Deon to approve the minutes of May 18, 2022; Motion carried unanimously.

**4. Treasurer's Report – May 2022:**

Mr. Weaver presented the May financials for review. Mr. Weaver noted additional revenue from sponsorships.

**MOTION:** A motion by Mr. Gaines, seconded by Ms. Rash to approve the May 2022 Financial Statements; Motion carried unanimously.

## **5. President's Report**

- A. **Results of the lottery for BCATO director terms-** Ms. Rash reminded the Executive Board of the new amendment to the bylaws establishing three-year staggered terms for members of the Executive Board. In an attempt to compile the 2023 BCATO slate of current board members, Ms. Rash attempted to correspond the longer BCATO board terms with board members' election terms but found the two terms did not necessarily correspond. Ms. Rash suggested to set the BCATO staggered terms for directors by lottery for the 2023 election. It was noted that at the time of elections, February of 2023, new candidates looking to serve on the BCATO board will need to choose a one-, two-, or three-year term. Following the 2023 BCATO board election, the staggered terms will allow for three-year terms so only three members will be elected annually instead of a full board. Following discussion, the board agreed by consensus to accept the results of the lottery administered by Ms. Rash for the 2023 staggered terms of current BCATO members for the slate.

## **6. Executive Directors Report**

- A. **EMS Task Force Meeting-** Ms. Mulholland reported on the recent Task Force meeting in which member Chester Pogonowski attended in person and President Rash joined virtually. The goal of the task force is to create a sustainable EMS delivery system. Currently there are funding and staffing issues at rates of concern for County Emergency Services potentially jeopardizing service to residents in the near future.

## **7. Solicitors Report- No report**

## **8. Legislative Business- No report**

## **9. Other Business**

- A. Mr. Hopkins continued the discussion regarding the potential sale of BCWSA from the May meeting. Mr. Hopkins had provided the board with a draft letter to the Bucks County Commissioners and a fact-based document of issues for consideration related to the sale of an Authority of such magnitude. Mr. Nyman mentioned that upon the sale of an Authority's assets, the municipal entity receives the revenue such as in the recent sale of the Lower Makefield Authority. The Township

is the receiver of the revenue despite the fact that the rate payers' funds supported the Authority. Parallels were drawn to the sale of BCWSA. It would be the County who would benefit from the revenue from the sale, not the ratepayers. Mayor Joe shared his experience when Bensalem sold their system twenty years ago. The funds have remained in a trust which has been beneficial for the purpose of borrowing. The Mayor, also stressed the importance of locking in rates for the residents. Several options for education and communication were discussed.

**MOTION:** A motion by Mr. Gaines and seconded and amended by Ms. Rash to send a letter to the Commissioners which included a stronger closing paragraph. Ms. Rash's amendment also requests the final draft be recirculated among the board before being sent to the Commissioners.; Motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION:** A motion by Mr. Nyman and seconded by Mr. Jones to educate officials in municipalities served by BCWSA and provide draft resolutions for officials to send to the County Commissioners. Motion carried unanimously.

**9. Adjournment** With no further business, a Schemm/Algeo motion carried to adjourn the Zoom meeting at 1:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stacey Mulholland  
Executive Director