



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, June 14, 2023.

MEMBERS:

- *Michelle Benitez, 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

Guest Speakers: Chris Gulotta, the Gulotta Group, Evan Stone, Executive Director, Bucks County Planning Commission, and Jeff Fields, Director, Housing and Community Development.

Topic: Blight Across Bucks County- Mr. Gulotta stated that his research determined that whether a community has just a few blighted properties or many, it is a source of frustration for municipal administrators and officials. Mr. Gulotta shared the results of the Bucks County commissioned study he led that revealed the specific characteristics of blight may vary among communities. Also, the top three challenges for municipalities are chronic violators, absentee landlords, and residents on fixed incomes. Mr. Fields offered to send the presentation for BCATO to share.

1. Call to Order: President Maggie Rash called the Executive Board Zoom meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes – of May 10, 2023.

MOTION: A motion by Ms. Rash and seconded by Mr. Jones to approve the minutes of May 10, 2023; Motion carried unanimously.

4. Treasurer’s Report – May 2023:

A. Mr. Weaver presented the May financials.

MOTION: A motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Ms. Rash to approve the May 2023 Financial Statements; Motion carried unanimously.

5. President’s Report

A. Sterling Act Update-The Board noted the municipalities that have passed resolutions supporting an amendment to the Sterling Act. Ms. Rash and Mr. Nyman stated they would reach out to municipalities that have not yet passed a resolution.

6. Executive Directors Report

A. Annual Convention Speaker- Ms. Mulholland presented the board with alternate speakers for the Annual Convention and the board was in agreement to move in that direction if necessary.

B. Outstanding Township Dues- Ms. Mulholland presented the board with the report which was followed by a discussion. Ms. Mulholland will follow up with municipalities that have not paid in full.

C. Field Trips - Ms. Mulholland was approached by a contact at the Doylestown Health Ann Silverman Free Clinic for a tour for municipal officials. Ms. Schemm, Ms. Ras, and Mr. Lichtenstein expressed interest.

D. PSATS Annual Planning Commission- Ms. Mulholland shared that she was asked to participate in a panel discussion and present to PSATS members on the planning practices that make our convention so successful.

E. Resolution to Bucks County Commissioners -Ms. Mulholland shared the document. Solicitor Clemons provided a revision. Ms. Schemm stated she would like to see the resolutions move forward. Ms. Mulholland will make the requested edit and add it to the July agenda.

F. Legislative Priorities- Ms. Mulholland suggested that BCATO advocate against HB 309 – the Plumbers and Contractors Licensure Act sponsored by Rep. John Galloway, Bucks County. The bill would require municipal water and wastewater operators to hold a plumbing license instead of the certifications they currently hold. This would be costly and unnecessary for operations. Ms. Mulholland shared that several Bucks representatives have cosponsored this bill.

7. Solicitors Report- N/A

8. Legislative Business- The board reviewed the Legislative priorities. Mr. Gaines offered to schedule a meeting with Rep. Brian Munroe (PA-144)

9. Other Business

10. Adjournment With no further business, Ms. Rash made a motion, seconded by Mr. Nyman, to adjourn the Zoom meeting at 1:10 pm; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacey Mulholland
Executive Director