



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 at Northampton Country Club on Wednesday, December 13, 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

1. Call to Order: President Maggie Rash called the Executive Board Zoom meeting to order at 12:24 p.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes – of November 8, 2023.

MOTION: A motion by Ms. Rash and seconded by Mr. Gaines to approve the minutes of November 8, 2023; Motion carried unanimously.

3. Treasurer’s Report – November, October 2023 Financials:

A. Mr. Weaver presented the November financials and noted that the Association is shaping up to have a small surplus for 2023. Executive Director Mulholland reported five expenses totaling approximately \$225.00 that are to be reimbursed by Wrightstown Township.

MOTION: A motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Nyman approved the November 2023 Financials.; Motion carried unanimously.

4. President’s Report

A. 2024 Nominating Committee- Ms. Rash reported she emailed last year’s committee members to see if they are interested in serving on the 2024 committee. She is awaiting responses. Ms. Benitez and Mr. Hopkins stated that as new members, who had recently interviewed with the Nominating Committee, they felt the Committee asked good questions and portrayed the BCATO board responsibilities accurately.

B. 2024 Auditors- Mr. Weaver reported that the Wrightstown Township elected auditors would once again perform the BCATO audit.

C. Upcoming Vacancies- Ms. Rash informed the board that there are four vacancies for 2024. The expiring terms were for Mr. Nyman, Ms. Lyons, Mr. Weaver, and Mr. Gaines. Mr. Nyman, Mr. Weaver, and Ms. Lyons all expressed interest in continuing to serve. Mr. Gaines will not be returning since he will not continue to serve as an elected official. Ms. Mulholland advised the members that Letters of Interest need to be submitted to her by January 7, 2024.

D. Youth Award- Ms. Rash explained that the deadline for the BCATO Youth Award does not sync with the PSATS Youth Award and it needs to be revised. As a result, the next deadline for the BACTO Youth Award will be

October 1, 2024. In addition, the Board agreed that BCATO needs to broaden its outreach and promotion of the award.

5. Executive Directors Report

A. December Newsletter- Ms. Mulholland reviewed the topics for the December Newsletter which included a *Save the Date* for the Annual Convention, Resolution and Nomination deadlines, and related procedure changes.

B. Annual Convention update- Ms. Mulholland informed the Board that as of now, Gov. Schweiker, PA Senator Farry, and PA Senator Santarsiero are confirmed for the panel discussion. In addition, the BCPC will be sending a representative to discuss Bucks2040 and Upper Makefield Fire Chief Tim Brewer will share a presentation of findings related to the tragic storm from the summer of 2023.

C. Supervisor Kathy Babb- Ms. Mulholland noted that Past President Babb has retired from her elected seat. Ms. Mulholland has reached out to Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick's office for a flag to be flown over the US Capitol in recognition of her service.

6. Solicitors Report- N/A

7. Legislative Business

A. Act 12 package of Bills- Ms. Mulholland informed the board that Pa. Rep. Matzie introduced four bills that address many of the concerns BCATO has expressed regarding Act 12. A hearing on these bills was held by the House Consumer Protection, Technology, and Utilities Committee on December 11, 2023. Ms. Mulholland also shared that North Wales Water Authority will be hosting a forum for elected officials, particularly the newly elected officials on Act 12, and invited BCATO to participate.

B. PA Supreme Court Consideration- Ms. Mulholland informed the Board that the Court will be taking up a case that involves whether public officials who use their social media to post about official activities are creating a record that is subject to the Right to Know Law.

8. Other Business

A. Future Guest- EMS Leadership- Ms. Benetez informed the board she has been in discussion with several leaders in Bucks County EMS and they have expressed interest in meeting with BCATO. The board agreed to host them at an upcoming meeting and see the next steps.

B. Bucks County Planning Commission (BCPC) 2040 Vision- Ms. Mulholland included a copy of the plan in the packet and let the board know they had attended a BCPC meeting in which the plan was on the agenda. The BCPC would like to speak briefly at the Annual Convention regarding the plan.

10 9. Adjournment With no further business, Mr. Nyman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jones, to adjourn the meeting at 1:25 pm; the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacey Mulholland
Executive Director