



Bucks County Association of Township Officials

TO: BCATO Member Municipalities
FROM: Resolutions Committee (David Nyman, Chester Pogonowski)
SUBJECT: Resolutions for consideration BCATO Annual Meeting February 2024
DATE: January 10, 2023

RESOLUTIONS

2024-01: Resolved that PSATS support legislation to amend the Second Class Township Code to expand Article XVIII Section 1802 (Fire Hydrants and Water Supply) to include “the installation and maintenance of rural water supplies provided by dry hydrants, ponds and water tanks used for fire protection and to assess the cost by equal assessment against all property owners who are serviced by mobile (tanker) distribution from these water supplies”; and, to amend Article XXXII Section 3205 (Township and Special Levies) to include “rural water supplies” in addition to current language for fire hydrants and fire hydrant water service.

WRIGHTSTOWN

SUPPORT

Justification: The Second Class Township Code permits townships to assess the cost of maintaining fire hydrants and water supplies serviced by public water against property owners who specifically receive benefit from the hydrant. In rural townships serviced by private wells, fire companies rely heavily on transporting water from water supplies for fire extinguishment. While this water could be transported from public water hydrants in or outside the township, this water typically comes from static water supplies such as ponds or tanks. Dry hydrants are sometimes installed which permit fire companies to draw water from the source more quickly. These hydrants must be maintained over time to be kept in serviceable condition, or to replace aged or broken installations. The current language in the Code does not include provisions for a special assessment to capture costs associated with these rural water supplies.