



# Bucks County Association of Township Officials

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## 115<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention Meeting Minutes

The 115th Annual BCATO Convention took place at the Northampton Valley Country Club, 299 Richboro Road, Richboro, PA on February 25, 2023.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by President Maggie Rash, Supervisor for Buckingham Township. President Rash highlighted a few events for the coming year such as the BCATO Suite at PSATS and the Fall Event, "A Taste of Bucks County," to be held at the Bucks County Tile Works in September.

### Bucks County Commissioners

Chair of the Bucks County Commissioners Bob Harvie offered an outlook on County goals for the year ahead which included a focus on sustainability and attainable housing. Commissioner Diane Marseglia discussed the success of the co-responder program and the planned Forensic Treatment Center for those seeking longer-term chronic treatment needs. Commissioner Gene DiGirolamo gave an update on the Opioid Settlement and the creation of the Trust for which he serves on the board.

### PSATS Update on Key Local Government Issues

Joseph Gerdes III, PSATS Director of Government Relations, provided an update on several issues being addressed in the Pennsylvania Legislature including Act 96, Broadband, Police Radar legislation, and the Sterling Act. First Vice President Dave Nyman informed the attendees of local efforts relating to Sterling Act legislation. Mr. Gerdes noted the new leadership in the General Assembly given the recent election.

### Regional Water and Sewer Infrastructure Consortium

Barry Lubber, Warrington Township Manager updated the membership on the formation of the consortium following the proposed and defeated sale of BCWSA wastewater operations to Aqua Pennsylvania.

### Panel Discussion

The panel discussion centered on the dynamic housing market and its impact on our communities. Featured speakers included Michael Roedig, Director of Planning Services for the Bucks County Planning Commission, Judith Stern Goldstein, Planner/Landscape Architect, Gilmore & Associates, Erik Clare, Executive Director, of the Bucks County Housing Group, and Florence Kawoczka, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County.

**Consent Agenda-** Consider approval of the 114<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention Meeting Minutes; 2022 Audit Letter, 2022 Financial Reports, and 2023 Annual Budget.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by First Vice President Dave Nyman and seconded by Supervisor Jim Hopkins. Without objections, the motion passed.

**Election of Directors for 2023 BCATO Board of Directors** -Members of the Nomination Committee Jane Magne and Jen Herring presented the slate of candidates.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Tax Collector Vince Deon and seconded by Supervisor Dave Nyman. Without objections, the motion passed.

The following members were elected to serve on the 2023 BCATO Board of Directors:

*Directors*

Maggie Rash, Buckingham  
Tom Cino, Upper Makefield  
Dave Nyman, East Rockhill  
Richard Weaver, Newtown  
Michele Benitez, Bensalem  
Barbara Lyons, Doylestown  
Vincent Deon Northampton  
Ruth Schemm, Warrington  
Bill Jones, New Britain Township  
Fred Gaines, Warrington  
Jim Hopkins, Springfield

*Returning Past Presidents*

Judith Algeo, Warwick  
Chester Pogonowski, Wrightstown  
Kathy Babb, Haycock

**Presentation of the BCATO Service Award in Honor of George Metzger**

Second Vice President Vince Deon presented Mayor Joe DiGirolamo with the Award for 2023. The Awards committee had selected "Mayor Joe" for his more than two decades of service to Bensalem Township and BCATO.

**Consideration of 2023 Resolutions** – Ten resolutions were put forth for consideration. Following the discussion, participating members voted. See the addendum for resolution language and votes.

Announcement/Adjournment- President Rash motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Nyman. The 115<sup>th</sup> Annual Virtual Convention was adjourned at approximately 11:00

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey Mulholland  
Executive Director/Secretary

## RESOLUTIONS

2023-01: Resolved that PSATS support legislation to repeal a portion of the Burial Grounds Act [9 Pa.C.S.A. §301] requiring a municipality post funds into a permanently held lot care fund.  
PLUMSTEAD SUPPORT

2023-02: Resolved that PSATS support legislation to repeal a portion of the Burial Grounds Act [9 Pa.C.S.A. §301(a)] requiring a municipality to annually set aside funds in a permanent lot care fund from the sale of lots, and construction and sale of crypts and niches in columbaria.  
PLUMSTEAD SUPPORT

2023-03: Resolved that PSATS support legislation to repeal a portion of the Real Estate Licensing and Registration Act [9 Pa.C.S.A. §304(a)(1)] requiring a municipality have a valid registration certificate from the State Real Estate Commission to sell cemetery lots, crypts and niches in columbaria.  
PLUMSTEAD SUPPORT

2023-04: Resolved that PSATS support legislation to amend Act 12 of 2016 to prohibit for profit private utilities from acquiring municipal owned water and sewer systems based on “fair market value” as defined in the Act instead of “book value” which was the valuation method required before the adoption of Act 12., but permitting “fair market value” to be used when purchasing water or sewer systems from distressed municipalities or municipal authorities.  
PLUMSTEAD SUPPORT

2023-05: Resolved that PSATS support legislation to amend Act 12 of 2016 to permit for profit private utilities to purchase distressed municipal water and sewer systems only.  
PLUMSTEAD SUPPORT

2023-06: Resolved that PSATS support legislation to require for-profit privately-operated water and sewer utility companies to comply with the same mandates as municipally owned systems not operating for profit regarding capital plans, environmental compliance and similar such mandates.  
PLUMSTEAD SUPPORT

2023-07: Resolved that PSATS supports legislation to require that a municipality served by a municipal authority approve the sale of authority’s assets to a private entity.  
PLUMSTEAD SUPPORT

2023-08: Resolved that PSATS supports legislation to provide an alternative means of generating revenue due to a reduction in Liquid Fuels taxes from alternative energy motor vehicles (e.g., electric, propane, liquified natural gas, hydrogen, etc.) for the purpose of maintenance and repair of local roads.  
WRIGHTSTOWN SUPPORT

2023-09: Resolved that PSATS supports an amendment to the Second-Class Township Code to provide for a dedicated milage assessment set by the Board of Supervisors for the maintenance and repair of local township roads.  
WRIGHTSTOWN SUPPORT

2023-10: Resolved that PSATS support legislation that would permit municipalities with excess funds in a Police Pension fund from a disbanded or defunct municipal police department, to transfer unincumbered funds to another municipal police pension fund within the Commonwealth.  
WRIGHTSTOWN SUPPORT