



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, January 8, 2025, at 12:00 PM.

- MEMBERS:**
- *Michelle Benitez, Bensalem Township
 - Maggie Rash, Buckingham Township
 - Barbara Lyons, Doylestown Township
 - Ken Lichtenstein, Plumstead
 - David Nyman, East Rockhill Township
 - William Jones, New Britain Township
 - *Dick Weaver, Newtown Township
 - Ruth Schemm, Warrington
 - Chester Pogonowski, Wrightstown Township
 - *Terry Clemons, Clemons Richter & Reiss, P.C.
 - Vicki Kushto, Clemons Richter & Reiss, P.C.
 - *Vince Deon, Northampton Township
 - Tom Cino, Upper Makefield Township
 - *Jim Hopkins, Springfield Township
 - *Stephanie Shortall, New Britain Township

*NOT PRESENT

1. Call to Order: President Maggie Rash called the Executive Board meeting to order at 12:03 pm.

2. Approval of the Minutes: December 11, 2024

MOTION: Following a discussion with Mr. Nyman explaining the amendments and getting the minutes drafted, a motion by Mr. Nyman and seconded by Mr. Lichenstein to approve the minutes of December 11, 2024, with amendments. The motion carried with abstention from Ms. Lyons.

3. Treasurer's Report: December 2024

Ms. Rash stated she didn't see the budget for 2025. Mr. Nyman commented that the numbers are in the December report. Ms. Rash reported that she spoke with Dick Weaver and the numbers will remain the same with keeping those numbers that are budgeted. Ms. Rash asked for a consensus, it was confirmed in the affirmative to keep the budget the same.

MOTION: Motion by Ms. Rash to approve the 2025 budget numbers keeping it the same, motion seconded by Ms. Schemm, Motion carried unanimously.

A. Consideration of December 2024 Financials- Mr. Weaver provided details of the monthly report.

Ms. Rash reported that Mr. Weaver has three people for the audit and reported that Vince(Deon) is the backup for the treasurer's report.

MOTION: A motion by Mr. Nyman was seconded by Ms. Lyons to approve the December 2024 Financial Statements; Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: A motion by Mr. Nyman to approve the treasurer's report motion was seconded by Mr. Pogonowski. The motion carried unanimously.

4. President's Report:

Ms. Rash

- a. **Honoring Judith Algeo**-Ms. Rash discussed having input on how to honor Judith. There will be a moment of silence at the convention. Ms. Rash suggested having something to be named in her honor. Mr. Lichenstein suggested the youth awards. Ms. Lyons suggested the intern scholarship and making it permanent honoring Judith. Mr. Pogonowski stated that the intern scholarship is already dedicated to Dirstein, and suggested using the youth award, naming it in her honor to stand alone. It was the consensus to name the youth award in honor of Judith.

Discussions ensued regarding an effective way to disseminate information. Ms. Rash explained and discussed the transition to Ms. Courter and some information was not given to her. Updating the timeline calendar is needed and stated that improvement is needed on what is being sent out.

- b. **Nominations**

Ms. Rash explained the process regarding nominations. Nominations are needed by January 22nd. She will be reaching out to Jane Mangely and Jenn Herring. Those up for re-election are Ruth Schemm, Ken Lichenstein and Michelle Benetiz. Ms. Rash stated that the nomination committee is responsible for reviewing nominations that come in and making recommendations. Nominations can also be taken from the floor at the convention.

- c. **Resolutions**

Mr. Pogonowski reported that they have received two resolutions from Doylestown; Rent Rebate Extension and Expanding Human Rights Act, Prohibit Sexual Orientation Gender in Human Rights Acts. Ms. Lyons thanked Mr. Pogonowski for writing the justification summary. Mr. Pogonowski stated that the deadline is January 17th and is hoping more come in.

Discussions of getting legislation regarding the Stirling Act done by legislators ensued. Mr. Pogonowski reported that some in the Bucks County Tax Collector community are working with Keystone and a few other legislators to redraft some legislation. Stated that it has to do with shuffling money around. School districts want to make sure they aren't losing money.

5. Executive Directors Report:

Ms. Courter went over the Annual Convention survey results. Very low participation was reported. Suggestions on how to get information out regarding the convention were discussed and getting more people involved and coming to the convention is an issue. Ms. Rash reported that the past convention was the best one they had everyone stayed longer.

It was decided, by going with the survey results the panel discussion will be "Ensuring a Robust Future of Emergency Services". Ms. Courter suggested including information for residents to prepare for emergencies.

6. Solicitors Report:

Ms. Kushto reported that a lot of their townships are getting Right-To-Know requests generated from AI. These types of requests were found after an appeal that the FOIA Buddy is not a person, not a requestor under RTK law. Going forward these types of RTK requests do not need to be responded to and can be denied. PSATS will continue to keep us updated on this.

Ms. Kushto reported that BCATO's fee will remain pro bono, with no charge, the same as last year.

MOTION:

Motion made by Ms. Lyons and seconded by Mr. Jones to approve the fee agreement as presented in 2024 with Clemons, Richter & Reiss law firm. Motion carried unanimously.

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7. Legislative Business: no report.

7. Other Business-

Mr. Lichenstein reported that they are moving forward for the fall conference with EMS Services focusing on ambulances. He and Ms. Schemm are working on it and reported that it is coming together reasonably well.

9. Adjournment: With no further business, made a motion, seconded by Mr. Nyman Dave and seconded by Mr. Jones to adjourn the meeting at 1:08 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie A. Courter

Executive Director