

BUCKS COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Bucks County Association of Township Officials was held on Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at 12:00p.m.

MEMBERS: Joseph DiGirolamo, Bensalem Township
Maggie Rash, Buckingham Township
Barbara Lyons, Doylestown Township*
Kathy Gentner, Durham Township
David Nyman, East Rockhill Township
Kathy Babb, Haycock Township*
Tom Courduff, Milford Township
William Jones, New Britain Township
Dick Weaver, Newtown Township
David Long, Springfield Township*
Diana Nolan, Upper Makefield Township
Dan McPhillips, Warminster Township
Judith Algeo, Warwick Township*
Don Duvall, West Rockhill Township
Chester Pogonowski, Wrightstown Township
Terry Clemons, Clemons Richter & Reiss, P.C.*
Angela P. Benner, Executive Director
Heather A. Cevasco, Incoming Executive Director

*NOT PRESENT

1. Call to Order: Mr. McPhillips called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes – January 9, 2019:

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Courduff, seconded by Mrs. Gentner and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of January 9, 2019 as written.

3. Treasurer's Report – January 2019: Mr. Weaver presented the financial statements for December 2018.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Duvall, seconded by Mr. Jones and carried unanimously to approve the January 2019 financial statements.

4. Executive Directors Report

4.1. Metzger Award – Ms. Benner stated that Shirley Alberts Yannich, Supervisor from Warrington Township submission was received for the 2018 George Metzger Award Ms. Benner provided the exec board with the submission letter for review

MOTION: A motion was made by Mrs. Rash, seconded by Mr. Duvall and carried unanimously to name Shirley Alberts Yannich as the recipient of the 2018 George Metzger Service Award.

4.2. Resolutions for Annual Convention – Ms. Benner presented the resolution to the Exec Board for support at the Annual Convention.

Resolution #1

- Resolved, that PSATS supports legislation restoring municipalities ability to adopt and collect a mercantile of business privilege tax in Townships that specifically elect to adopt such tax. (Submitted by Warrington Township)

There was some discussion regarding the resolution before the motion was made.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Pogonowski, seconded by Mrs. Rash, and motion carried to support resolution #1 as submitted. The following Exec members voted no, Mrs. Gentner, Mr. Courdoff, Mrs. Nolan, Mr. McPhillips.

Resolution #2

- Resolved, that PSATS supports legislation that requires a licensed real estate agent to disclose the municipal zoning and what is allowed within 1000 feet of a property to prospective purchaser. (Submitted by East Rockhill Township and Upper Makefield Township)

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mrs. Nolan, and motion carried to unanimously to support resolution #2 as submitted.

Resolution #3

- Resolved, that PSATS supports legislation that continues to promote continuing education for elected tax collectors and actively opposes any legislation that would seek to eliminate the position of a legally elected tax collector for the collection of all legally permitted taxes.

(Submitted by BCATO Executive Board) NOTE: This resolution was discussed at the Fall Convention and consensus was provided to approve the resolution. We just need to formally approve the resolution at our Annual Convention.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mrs. Nolan, seconded by Mrs. Rash, and motion carried to unanimously to support resolution #3 as submitted.

4.3. Annual Convention Update - Ms. Benner included the convention agenda and packet to the Exec Board for their review. She indicated there will be approximately 125 attendees and 24 exhibitor tables and that the new venue should work well for this convention. Dave Sanko will be providing a brief update from PSATS and the following speakers will be participating in the Opioid Panel, District Attorney Matt Weintraub, Bucks County Commissioner Rob Loughery, State Representative Gene DiGirolamo, Josh Snyder from Boni, Zack and Snyder and Diane Rosati with the Bucks County Drug and Alcohol Commission. Mrs. Nolan will be moderating the panel.

4.4. Executive Board Vacancy – Ms. Benner stated that there were six individual that expressed interest in filing the vacancy on the BCATO Executive Board. Those individuals were as follows:

Fred Gains, Supervisor, Warrington Township
Vince Deon, Tax Collector, Northampton Township
Fred Weiss, Supervisor Lower Makfield Township
Richard Rosamilia, Supervisor Tinicum Township
Sherry Labs, Tax Collector, Plumstead Township
Eileen Silver, Supervisor, Northampton Township

Ms. Benner stated the Nominating Committee that consisted of Jane Magne, Ed Kissleback and Jim Miller completed interviews of the candidates and a conference call was held on January 23rd with Jane and Jim of the committee, Ed was not available for the call. Ms. Benner provided a summary of the conference call. There was some discussion regarding the vacancy before the decision was made.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Courdoff, seconded by Mr. DiGirolamo, and motion carried to unanimously to appoint Mr. Vince Deon from Northampton Township as a director of the BCATO Executive Board.

4.5. Committee Appointments – Ms. Benner included the current committees and highlighted which committees currently have vacancies. This will need to be taken up at the March meeting for a vote to appoint members to those vacancies.

4.6. Fall Meeting location – Ms. Benner discussed moving the Fall Meeting location around the County to hopefully get more participation from other areas. It was suggested that the Plumsteadville Inn may be a

suitable location and should be contacted. Mrs. Gentner also suggested for a future location could be the Cascade Lodge.

5. Committee Reports

5.1. Legislative Committee - Meeting was held on Tuesday, February 5, 2019. The following items were discussed at the meeting –

An updated Legislative Directory was distributed and there was discussion of adding additional members to the Legislative Committee as well as assigning members of the committee to each of the elected officials.

Members assigned were as follows:

Senator Tomlinson – Mayor Joe DiGirolamo

Senator Mensch – Tom Courduff and Dave Nyman

Representative DiGirolamo - Mayor Joe DiGirolamo

Representative Staats - Tom Courduff and Dave Nyman

Representative Thomas – Dave Nyman

Bucks County Commissioners – Dan McPhillips

Still need members to be assigned to: US Senators Casey and Toomey, Congressman Fitzpatrick, State Senators Collett and Santarsiero, State Representatives Davis, Farry, Galloway, Polinchock, Schroeder, Ullman and Warren

A letter of introduction from Dan will be sent out to the elected officials and will include the name and contact information of the BCATO members who have been assigned once all the legislators have members assigned to them. Members will then be tasked with setting up meetings with the elected officials.

A brief discussion was had regarding the hiring of a lobbyist. Dave Nyman will reach out to SEATO members to see if it would be better to jointly hire a lobbyist to help with the Sterling Act.

The following legislation was discussed:

Sterling Act – to be re-introduced by Rep. Farry

SR 6 Fire & EMS Study

HB 283 - Right-to-Know Law-Commercial Purpose Fee

6. Other Business

6.1 - Municipal and Fire Company Survey Report – Mr. Pogonowski gave an update to the Executive Committee, survey was completed and mentioned that one recommendation for BCATO would be regarding the training curriculum here in Bucks County. This is something the fire companies have been struggling with.

6.2 – Municipal Outreach Plan - Mrs. Rash and Mr. McPhillips are planning to start an outreach plan to attend different Township Meetings throughout the County to help bring back ideas and concerns that municipalities are facing. This may fall under the Education Committee. There will be more discussion at the next Executive Board Meeting.

7. Adjournment:

Being there no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Jones to adjourn the meeting at 1:20pm

Respectfully submitted,

Heather A. Cevalco
Secretary