

# BUCKS COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

## MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Bucks County Association of Township Officials was held on Wednesday, November 13, 2019 at 12:00 p.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 Duval, West Rockhill Township
- Chester Pogonowski, Wrightstown Township
- \*Terry Clemons, Clemons Richter & Reiss, P.C.
- Vince Deon, Northampton Township
- Amy Schreiber, Executive Director

\*NOT PRESENT

**1. Call to Order:** President Dan McPhillips called the meeting to order at 11:59 a.m.

**2.** Dan McPhillips introduced Pennoni Associates Mike Conallen. Mr. Conallen shared some background of Pennoni and then introduced his colleague Julia Wolanski, Pennoni's GIS Specialist. Ms. Wolanski shared the GIS mapping abilities and how it can help municipalities in being pro-active and not re-active when knowing of where underground systems are located. She shared that this information will help with budgeting forecasting but not having unexpected costs of reactive needed operational corrections. Mr. Nyman shared that Bucks County's Planning Commission has an extensive GSI

mapping program and Ms. Wolanski shared that their system is linked to the County's for real time updates. Ms. Lyons thanked the speakers for addressing the Board.

### **3. Approval of the Minutes – October 9, 2019**

**MOTION: A motion was made by Ms. Lyons and, seconded by Ms. Nolan to approve the minutes of October 9, 2019. The motion carried unanimously**

### **Approval of the Minutes – September 11, 2019**

**MOTION: A motion was made by Ms. Lyons and, seconded by Mr. Nyman to approve the minutes of October 9, 2019. The motion carried unanimously**

### **4. Treasurer's Report – August 2019:**

Mr. Weaver presented the financial statements for October 2019. Mr. Weaver also shared that motions have been taken to formalize the accounting reporting into two reports and that all line items will continue being reported. In discussion of the Annual Budget, Mr. Weaver passed out the 2020 Proposed Annual Budget for the Board to review and shared that he and Ms. Schreiber will get together to formalize 2020 budgeting forecasting.

**MOTION: A motion was made by Dave Nyman, seconded by Bill Jones to approve the October 2019 Financial Statements. The motion carried unanimously.**

### **5. Executive Director Report**

Ms. Amy Schreiber started with an update on the BCATO website. She reported that the website has been updated to date. The announcement of the Youth Scholarship Award winner scrolls along the top, pictures of the Fall Dinner have been added, updated committee listing, talking points for the Sterling Act with a link to the "one-pager" of a breakout of how much municipalities are losing to the Philadelphia Wage Tax, along with other needed changes. She also shared that moving forward the site will be updated

quarterly or after big events. Ms. Schreiber shared the changes that she made to our offered sponsorship packages and provide a handout to the Board. The packages are more reflective of what has actually been provided in the past. For example, all sponsorship packages were offered a hyperlink to their site by clicking on the sponsor logo. That has not occurred and after meeting and talking to different sponsors we've decided to remove the newsletter as most sponsors never remembered receiving one. Both are good ideas and will be revisited moving forward after getting sponsors more engaged. Ms. Schreiber shared that all prior sponsors have been individually called and received a follow-up email asking or thanking them for their continued support. Lastly, she shared, that she has been working with Mr. Weaver on the 2020 Preliminary Budget and is keeping him posted as sponsorship packages are agreed too.

## **6. Legislative Update**

Mr. Nyman shared introduction of legislation HB 432 for EMS post-traumatic stress coverage needs. Municipalities would have to cover additional insurance, and this will increase rates moving forward. This coverage is for all first responders including firefighters. The Workers Compensation Act will drive up rates and will have a financial impact on municipalities budgets. Mr. Nyman shared that next week he will be attending the State Board (PSATS) meeting and will also be meeting the Chester County Association of Township Officials (CCATO) and will report back at the next meeting as to what is discussed. Mr. Nyman went on to share that the CCATO meeting will continue discussing joint efforts regarding the Sterling Act. Ms. Lyons asked Mr. Nyman if the state has talked about limiting/removing the use of plastic bags. Ms. Rash said she heard talk of a charge for single use plastic bags and that many other states have implemented that type of legislation. Ms. Rash showed her compostable plastic bag and that BCATO would be wise to support a local effort to offer consumers the compostable plastic. Ms. Lyons shared that she felt it wise to get in front of this issue and that BCATO should write a letter of support banning plastic bags. Ms. Lyons suggested asking Mr. Clemons to create wording for a draft for the Board to consider and then to distribute to all the Townships. Mr. Nyman shared that the Board needs to "adopt" the wording first and the Board agreed. Ms. Lyons then shared that she is willing to take the "first stab" at composing the draft. Ms. Gentner shared her personal support of eliminating plastics but also shared her concern of mandating companies to follow what is "currently trending now". She

reminded the Board that once paper bags were banned for being a “tree” product the move was made to plastic (which is non-biodegradable). She feels consumers should make decisions that drive companies’ policies and therefore eliminate products or stop production. Therefore, she feels education is key. She requested the wording of the draft not to be an “overreach” in controlling companies’ decisions.

## **7. Other Business**

Ms. Rash shared her continued support for diversifying the Executive Board and shared that she would like to personally reach-out to newly elected Supervisors on behalf of BCATO to welcome them. Ms. Rash then shared that she would like to organize a “Boot Camp” for newly elected officials as Dan McPhillips and Stacey Mulholland did one year in the past. The Board agreed that this would be a good idea. Lastly, a suggestion was made to invite the newly elected Commissioners to a BCATO meeting.

## **8. Adjournment:**

With no further business, a motion was made by Barb Lyons and seconded by Diana Nolan to adjourn the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Schreiber  
Executive Director