

BUCKS COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS
111th ANNUAL CONVENTION MEETING MINUTES

The 111th Annual BCATO Convention took place at the Northampton Country Club on February 16, 2019.

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. by President Dan McPhillips, Supervisor for Warminster Township, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and an Invocation by Maggie Rash, Buckingham Township Supervisor.

Bucks County Municipal Cooperative

Chester Pogonowski, Wrightstown Township Supervisor gave an update on the Municipal Cooperative survey that was sent to municipalities and fire companies to build a database of options that are available to municipalities and Emergency Services Organizations to reverse the alarming trending reduced volunteerism and turnout rates. The goal of the municipal cooperative in 2019 will be to continue to build upon the survey results that were compiled and to establish the strategic plan.

Consider Approval of 109th Annual Convention Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Maggie Rash (Buckingham Township), seconded by Carla Herling-Tomlinson (Warwick Township)

Presentation of Audit Letter

Richard Weaver, Newtown Township Auditor, presented the 2018 Audit Letter prepared by Dunlap and Associates

Presentation of Financial Reports

- Richard Weaver, Newtown Township Auditor, presented the 2018 Financial Reports.

Presentation of 2019 Budget

Angela P. Benner, Executive Director, presented a summary of the 2019 Budget for the organization. She stated the organization has had a tremendous amount of sponsor support and the organization has maintained a level of financial stability to increase services to the membership.

A motion was made by James C. Nietupski (East Rockhill Township), seconded by Kathleen Gentner (Durham Township) and unanimously passed to approve the 2019 Budget

2017-2018 Election of Officers

Ed Kisselback, Bensalem Township Supervisor, Jane Magne, Wrightstown Township and Jim Miller, West Rockhill Township members of the Nominating Committee, reported that one appointment was necessary to fill out this year's slate of nominees. The slate included the following members:

Directors:

Dan McPhillips - Warminster Township

Maggie Rash - Buckingham Township

Diana Nolan – Upper Makefield Township
Dick Weaver - Newtown Township
Tom Courduff - Milford Township
Joseph DiGirolamo - Bensalem Township
David Nyman - East Rockhill Township
Kathy Gentner – Durham Township
Vincent Deon – Northampton Township

Delegates

David Long – Springfield Township
Barbara Lyons - Doylestown Township
Bill Jones - New Britain Township

A motion was made by Tom Courduff (Milford Township), seconded by Shirley Yannich (Warrington Township) and unanimously passed to approve the 2019-2020 Election of Officers.

Consider and Approval of 2019 Resolutions

Mr. Nyman presented the following 2019 resolutions:

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. Seliga, and motion carried to support resolution #1 as submitted.

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 Mrs. Nolan, seconded by Mr. Jones, 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. Gentner, seconded by Mr. Calderaio, and motion carried to unanimously to support resolution #3 as submitted.

2018 George Metzger Service Award Presentation

Chester Pogonowski, Supervisor of Wrightstown Township, presented the 2018 George Metzger Service Award Presentation. He provided an overview of Mr. Metzger and his contributions to the community and the previous award winners.

Mr. Pogonowski stated this year's winner was Shirley Alberts Yannich, Supervisor from Warrington Township.

Bucks County Update

Bucks County Commission Robert Loughery thanked the Townships for working with Bucks County on multiple issues throughout the years. Commissioner Loughery gave an overview of different County Programs like their trail system and county bridge replacement projects, the County's Workforce Development Program and partnership with Bucks County Community College training program and lastly touched on affordable housing in the County for low income and veterans housing programs.

PSATS Update

Dave Sanko, PSATS Executive Director, provided an overview of PSATS and provided a Front Burner Legislative update on legislative items at the state level.

Tackling the Opioid Crisis Panel Discussion

The panel included update from 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 moderated the panel.

DA Weintraub talked about the Push out the Pusher program and how important the community support is to helping combat this crisis. A tip from a community member help lead to a major drug bust in Warminster Township. There are rewards given to individuals who have given tips that have led to arrests through this program. Commissioner Loughery discussed why the County filed the lawsuit against the drug manufacturers, how this crisis affects the aging community as many grandparents are now caring for their grandchild, whose parents are addicted, in prison or have sadly overdosed. The cost to the County goes beyond treatment, it is affecting County Departments such as Children and Youth Services and the County Prison overcrowding. State Representative DiGirolamo stated that the State has done a lot to combat this epidemic. The Representative is proposing to open closed State-owned buildings to put in detox beds as there is a shortage of beds for those seeking treatment. He would also like the State to file suit against the big pharma companies and this needs to begin with the Pennsylvania Attorney Generals Office. Mr. Snyder gave an update on the County Opioid Lawsuit. Mr. Snyder also provided handouts and overviewed the potential recoverable litigation damage categories for Townships and asked each municipality to review if they feel they should become part of the lawsuit. Ms. Rosati spoke about the resources in the Hope and Help Handbook that was included in the Convention packets. There is a 24/7 hotline PA Help and Bucks County has become number 1 in the State for drug collection drop boxes. There are 37 drop box sites in Bucks County. BCDA is offering pills pods and have them available for municipalities to give out to their residents. The rescue medication Narcan nasal spray is available and anyone can administer in Pennsylvania. Ms. Rosati with the help of DA Weintraub demonstrated how easy the medication is to use should someone need to administer it.

Adjournment

Upon motion by Maggie Rash (Buckingham Township) the meeting adjourned at 11:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather A. Cevalco
Secretary