BUCKS COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

108th ANNUAL CONVENTION MEETING MINUTES

The 108th Annual BCATO Convention took place at the Spring Mill Country Club on February 27, 2016.

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m. by President Dan Rattigan, Supervisor for Upper Makefield Township, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and an Invocation by Maggie Rash, Buckingham Township Supervisor.

Consider Approval of 107th Annual Convention Meeting Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of 107th Annual Convention. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Eileen Silver, Northampton Township

Second: Jane Magne, Wrightstown Township

Presentation of Audit Letter

Richard Weaver, Newtown Township Auditor, presented the 2015 Audit Letter prepared by Dunlap and Associates

Presentation of Financial Reports

Joseph McFadden, Lower Southampton Supervisor, presented the 2015 Financial Reports.

Presentation of 2016 Budget

Jamie Gwynn, Executive Director, presented a summary of the 2016 Budget for the organization. He stated the organization has had a tremendous amount of sponsor support and the organization has reached a level of financial stability to increase services to the membership.

2016-2017 Election of Officers

Eileen Silver, Northampton Township Supervisor and Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported that three appointments were necessary to fill out this year’s slate of nominees. The slate included the following members:
Directors:

Dan Rattigan - Upper Makefield Township
Stacey Mulholland - Plumstead Township
Tom Courduff - Milford Township
Dick Weaver - Newtown Township
Joseph DiGirolamo - Bensalem Township
Joseph McFadden - Lower Southampton Township
Maggie Rash - Buckingham Township
Dave Nyman - East Rockhill Township
Dan McPhillips - Warminster Township

Delegates

Lola Biuckians - Upper Southampton Township
Barbara Lyons - Doylestown Township
Bill Jones - New Britain Township

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2016-2017 Election of Officers. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Barbara Lyons, Doylestown Township
Second: Dan McPhillips, Warminster Township

Consider Approval of Constitution/Bylaw Amendment

Mr. Rattigan provided an overview of the following bylaw amendment which includes boroughs as non-voting members in the organization:

Article III—Membership of the Constitution of the Bucks County Association of Township Officials is hereby amended to add a new subsection 3 which shall state as follows:

3. Members of borough councils of boroughs within Bucks County are permitted to be non-voting members of the Bucks County Association of Township Officials. Such members shall have only those privileges not reserved by of the Second Class Township Code to Township officials. Dues for non-voting members shall be in an amount established by the Executive Board of the Association.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the constitution/bylaw amendment. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Joseph DiGirolamo, Bensalem Township
Second: Barbara Lyons, Doylestown Township
Consider Approval of 2016 Resolutions

Mr. Gwynn presented the following 2016 resolutions:

Resolved, that PSATS pursue avenues with PennDOT through its legislative connections to encourage the Departments Technical Leadership Division to expedite working with their Materials and Testing Lab on approving the materials and equipment related to salt brine use by municipalities to qualify for Liquid Fuels funding. *(Submitted by East Rockhill Township)*

A motion was made and seconded to approve the resolution. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**Motion:** Maggie Rash, Buckingham Township  
**Second:** David Nyman, East Rockhill Township

Resolved, that PSATS supports federal legislation that would amend the Affordable Care Act commonly known as Obamacare by repealing the Cadillac Tax on health care plans or, in the alternative, support an amendment to exempt local government units from such tax. *(Submitted by Upper Southampton Township)*

A motion was made and seconded to approve the resolution. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**Motion:** Keith Froggatt, Upper Southampton Township  
**Second:** Katherine Frescatore, Warminster Township

Resolved, that PSATS support legislation that would create a means of funding capital improvements similar to the PENNVEST program that is available for clean water projects. *(Submitted by the CCATO)*

A motion was made and seconded to approve the resolution. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**Motion:** David Nyman, East Rockill Township  
**Second:** Patty Medd, Doylestown Township
Resolved, that PSAT’s seek legislation to amend Act 93 of 1994 to require insurance companies reimburse any expenses incurred by volunteer fire companies before claim is paid to the named insured. *(Submitted by CCATO)*

A motion was made and seconded to deny the resolution. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**Motion:** Dan Rattigan, Upper Makefield Township  
**Second:** Joseph McFadden, Lower Southampton Township

Resolved, that PSATS support legislation amending the MPC prohibiting the use of bonds as a permitted form of financial security for the installation of improvements required by an approved subdivision and/or land development plan. *(Submitted by CCATO)*

A motion was made and seconded to table the resolution. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**Motion:** Barbara Lyons, Doylestown Township  
**Second:** Maggie Rash, Buckingham Township

2015 Doc Derstine Youth Awards Presentation

Donald Duvall, Supervisor for West Rockhill Township, presented the winners to the 2015 Richard “Doc” Derstine Youth Awards Presentation. He provided an overview of Mr. Derstine and his contributions to the community. The winners included the following:

**Robert Deibler Elementary School Student Council**

Twenty-three (23) members collected toys that were distributed to families in need throughout the Pennridge School District.

Municipalities Benefited: East Rockhill Township, West Rockhill Township, Bedminster Township, Hilltown Township, Dublin Borough, Perkasie Borough and Sellersville Borough

**Spurs N Burrs 4-H Club**

Twenty-three (23) members provided assistance to the Springfield Township Community Day Committee and Bucks County Horse Park, volunteering at the events, including chairing the Photo Contest, helping vendors unload vehicles and assisting with setting up tents and displays, assisting with a silent auction, and helping with cleaning up the event.
Municipalities Benefited: Springfield Township, Durham Township, Richland Township, Quakertown Borough, Springtown Borough, Doylestown Township and Doylestown Borough

**Kids Can Make A Change**

Thirty-one (31) members created events titled “Trick or Treating for a Soldier,” which over 100 trick or treat bags to local children to collect donations on Halloween and “Project Keep Warm,” which brought in over 75 winter coats, hats, gloves and scarves. Both events supported local homeless veterans and military families in need.

Municipalities Benefited: Bensalem Township, Bristol Township, and Middletown Township

KCMAC also won an award presented by PSATS for its 2015 Youth Awards Contest.

**2015 George Metzger Service Award Presentation**

Chester Pogonowski, Supervisor of Wrightstown Township, presented the 2015 George Metzger Service Award Presentation. He provided an overview of Mr. Metzger and his contributions to the community and the previous award winners.

- **2011** - Chester Pogonowski, Wrightstown Township
- **2010** - David Nyman, East Rockhill Township
- **2009** - George Komelasky, Northampton Township
- **2008** - Tom Scarborough, Doylestown Township
- **2007** - Joseph DiGirolamo, Bensalem Township
- **2006** - Bob Cotton, New Britain Township

Mr. Pogonowski stated the Awards Committee had six candidates for the award this year. This year’s winner was Nick Forte, recently retired as supervisor for Tinicum Township.

**PSATS Update**

Megan McDonough, Research Analyst for PSATS, presented an overview of a list of agenda items for PSATS in 2016.

**Heroin Hits Home Panel**

Stacey Mulholland, Supervisor for Plumstead Township, served as the moderator for the panel discussion. She presented an overview of the current struggle with heroin abuse in the county before asking the panel members a series of questions related to the topic.
Panel members included Matt Weintraub, Chief of Prosecution for the Bucks County District Attorney’s Office; Barbara Lyons, Chairman of the Doylestown Township Board of Supervisors; and Gene DiGirolamo, PA State Representative for the 18th District.

There was much discussion on this topic from both the panel members and the audience.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie L. Gwynn,
Secretary