

BUCKS COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Bucks County Association of Township Officials was held on Wednesday, September 9, 2020 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
- Diana Nolan, Upper Makefield Township
- Judith Algeo, Warwick Township
- Chester Pogonowski, Wrightstown Township
- Terry Clemons, Clemons Richter & Reiss, P.C.
- *Vince Deon, Northampton Township
- Fred Gaines, Warrington Township
- *Jim Miller, West Rockhill Township
- Amy Schreiber, Executive Director

*NOT PRESENT

1. Call to Order: President Maggie Rash called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the BCATO Zoom meeting.

2. Approval of the Minutes - August 12, 2020

MOTION: A motion was made by Ms. Lyons and, seconded by Mr. Jones to approve the minutes of August 12, 2020 with the addition of more legislative information to the fire fighter legislation within 2(a) of the August minutes.

3. Treasurer's Report – August, 2020:

Mr. Weaver presented the financial statements for August, 2020. He noted that we are in good financial standing, however, asked the Board to start thinking about the 2021 Budget and how COVID is hindering the usual fundraising revenue streams. Mr. Pogonowski questioned Mr. Weaver concerning the new accounting financial reports to how much is dedicated for legal defense within the balance of the one line reporting. Mr. Weaver said that he will check with the accounting firm and brake that amount down before the next Board meeting for more clarity.

MOTION: A motion was made by Ms. Lyons, seconded by Mr. Jones to approve the August, 2020 Financial Statements with Mr. Pogonowski's questions being added to the Treasurer's Report. A motion was made by Ms. Lyons and seconded by Mr. Jones the Motion was carried unanimously.

4. Executive Director Report

A). Feedback, Ready for 100 Presentation, by Jim Baldassarre

1. All felt the presentation was informative. Ms. Rash asked if the Board were supportive of the Ready for 100 initiative to which the Board agreed and then Ms. Rash asked if the Board would be agreeable to notifying our Members on our website as to the Ready for 100 efforts. Ms. Lyons added that we should also list what Townships have already adopted collaborative cooperation with this organization.

MOTION: A motion was made by Ms. Algeo, seconded by Ms. Lyons to approve the Ready for 100 initiative to be listed on the BCATO website.

B) PSATS Nomination Voting for BCATO

1. The Board unanimously nominated Chester Pogonowski to be the state BCATO member.

MOTION: A motion was made by Ms. Algeo, seconded by Ms. Lyons to approve Mr. Pogonowski as the Executive Board State Voting Member.

C) Census Outreach Discussion

1. The Board shared their individual initiative efforts to encourage residents to fill out the census form.

D) Uncontrolled Fireworks

1. Information was shared as to HB 1687 by Rep. Farry for the state to give more guidance to local government for the use of residential lighting of fireworks. A senate mirrored bill S845 was introduced by Sen. Tomlinson both members are from Bucks County. Both bills are opposed to the current legal allowance of individual lighting of fireworks. A conversion was had if BCATO should draft a letter of support of the removal of all fireworks in townships. The Board supports a repeal of the current firework legislation.

E) Legalization of Marijuana

1. It was shared that the Governor of Pennsylvania has now announced that he is for the legalization of marijuana especially as a revenue generator. The Board understand decriminalization of small amounts of individual use of marijuana but feels major suppliers should be subject to the law.

F) Legislation – November Elections

1. Guest Stacy Mullholand shared that HB 2626 passed the House and is now in the senate to add guidelines to the current legislative voting process especially with guidance to mail-in ballots and drop boxes.

5. Legislative Updates

1. Mr. Nyman shared that with the current political environment it is unlikely that firework legislation or for that matter any new

legislation will be passes this legislative year and that the focus in Harrisburg is to get the Budget through. He further shared that it is likely that no other legislation will be moved until after the November election.

2. Right to Know Legislation attachment was discussed HB 283 and HB 860. The Board agreed that this BCATO pertinent information could be emailed to members along with drafted firework repeal messaging when approved.

6. Other Business:

1. None

7. Adjournment:

With no further business the Zoom meeting was adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

MOTION: A motion was made by Ms. Lyons, seconded by Ms. Nolan. The motioned carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Schreiber
Executive Director