



Bucks County Association of Township Officials

BUCKS COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Bucks County Association of Township Officials was held via Zoom on Wednesday, April 20, 2022, at 12:00 p.m.

MEMBERS:

- *Joseph DiGirolamo, Bensalem Township
- Maggie Rash, Buckingham Township
- Barbara Lyons, Doylestown Township
- Ken Lichtenstein, Plumstead
- David Nyman, East Rockhill Township
- *Kathy Babb, Haycock Township
- William Jones, New Britain Township
- Dick Weaver, Newtown Township
- Ruth Schemm, Warrington
- Judith Algeo, Warwick Township
- Chester Pogonowski, Wrightstown Township
- Terry Clemons, Clemons Richter & Reiss, P.C.
- Vince Deon, Northampton Township
- Fred Gaines, Warrington Township
- Tom Cino, Upper Makefield Township
- Jim Hopkins, Springfield Township
- Stacey Mulholland, Executive Director

*NOT PRESENT

1. Call to Order: President Maggie Rash called the Executive Board Zoom meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes – of March 16, 2022.

MOTION: A motion by Ms. Lyons and seconded by Ms. Algeo to approve the minutes of March 16, 2022; Motion carried unanimously.

3. Treasurer’s Report – March 2022:

Mr. Weaver presented the March financials for review. Mr. Weaver noted membership dues and sponsorship revenue. The breakdown of billing for Membership Dues, Legal Defense Fund, and Legislative Initiative was discussed. Various approaches for outreach and education regarding these funds were considered. Individual board members offered to reach out to member townships (Falls, Middletown, Bensalem, Newtown, and Plumstead) that had only paid the dues portion.

MOTION: A motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Ms. Lyons to approve the March 2022 Financial Statements; Motion carried unanimously.

4. President’s Report

- A. **Lunch and Learn Recap-** Ms. Rash informed the board that the recent Zoom Lunch and Learn with Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick regarding Federal Funding opportunities was both informative and nicely attended with approximately 30 participants.
- B. **PSATS Awards-** Ms. Rash was pleased to report Mr. Nyman and Middletown Township were recipients of 2022 Governor’ Awards for Local Government Excellence. Mr. Nyman was honored for Career Recognition and Middletown Township for Innovative Land Use Planning.

5. Executive Directors Report

- A. **General Ledger Accounts –** Ms. Mulholland provided the board with a breakdown of members’ dues and contributions to the Legal Defense Fund and Legislative Initiative Funds. **Discussion pertaining to this issue occurred during the Treasurers Report.*
- B. **Tax Exempt Status-** It has come to the attention of Ms. Mulholland that the Association is not approved for a PA State Sales Tax Exemption. Ms.

Mulholland provided some examples of upcoming expenditures with sales tax attached. Following discussion regarding costs associated with filing and potential professional guidance, the board agreed to move forward with the application and filing.

Motion: A motion by Mr. Gaines and seconded by Mr. Nyman to authorize Ms. Mulholland to apply for PA Sales Tax Exemption and utilize professional guidance as necessary.

- C. **Sponsorships-** Ms. Mulholland informed the board that Asphalt Maintenance Solutions has committed to be a PSATS BCATO Suite Sponsor.
- D. **PSATS Registration** – Ms. Mulholland reported that PSATS has confirmed that over 100 members have registered from Bucks County. Ms. Mulholland also reached out to the municipalities with registered members to remind them the Hospitality Suite will be open Sunday night for refreshments and Monday and Tuesday for lunch.

6. **Solicitors Report-**

- A. Solicitor Clemons was pleased to inform the board that PA HB221, has been signed into law by Gov. Wolf. HB221 will allow municipalities to use money collected from Open Space taxes to maintain all open space, not just open space purchased with funds from the referendum. Municipalities can allocate up to 25% of funds currently earmarked for maintenance and development under the “open space tax,” regardless of the method of acquisition or purchase of land serving an “open space benefit.”

7. Legislative Business- Mr. Nyman reminded members that PSATS Resolution Committee will be meeting Tuesday morning.

8. **Other Business**

- A. Mr. Gaines informed colleagues on the board that the PSATS Conference Website enables users to access presentations ahead of the conference workshops.
- B. Mr. Hopkins would like to keep EMS issues as a priority.

C. Ms. Schemm would like an update on the co-responder program that had been presented by then Bensalem Public Safety Director Fred Harran, at a board meeting last year. Ms. Mulholland offered to provide the board with an update via email. An updated presentation can be scheduled from another municipality that has adopted the program in the future.

9. Adjournment With no further business, a Schemm/Algeo motion carried to adjourn the Zoom meeting at 1:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacey Mulholland
Executive Director