



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, June 12, 2024, at 12:00 p.m.

MEMBERS:

*Michelle Benitez, Bensalem Township
Maggie Rash, Buckingham Township
*Barbara Lyons, Doylestown Township
Ken Lichtenstein, Plumstead
David Nyman, East Rockhill 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.
Vicki Kushto, Clemons Richter & Reiss, P.C.
*Vince Deon, Northampton Township
Tom Cino, Upper Makefield Township
Jim Hopkins, Springfield Township
Stephanie Shortall, New Britain Township
Stacey Mulholland, Executive Director

*NOT PRESENT

1. Call to Order: President Maggie Rash called the Executive Board Zoom meeting to order at noon.

Special Guest: Bucks County District Attorney Jen Schorn- DA Schorn informed board members about the recent surge in the quantity of Skills Games machines appearing across Bucks County. Skills Games are currently unlicensed and unregulated by the Pennsylvania legislature. They operate similarly to slot machines. They are appearing in gas stations, convenience stores, and even grocery stores. Unlike regulated games of chance and casinos such as PARX, no taxes are paid to the state on proceeds going to the machine owner. Skills Games machines have been tied to meth coalitions and money launderers. DA Schorn is currently working with the Bucks County Chiefs Association on cataloging the machines across the county. She is also working with Bensalem on an ordinance prohibiting the machines and making sure it will be prosecutable. Ms. Rash and BCATO board members expressed their appreciation for DA Schorn providing his important information and her time.

2. Approval of the Minutes – of May 8, 2024.

MOTION: A motion by Ms. Rash and seconded by Mr. Jones to approve the minutes of May 8, 2024; Motion carried with Jim Hopkins abstaining.

3. Treasurer’s Report – May 2024

A. Approve Maay 2024 Financials- Mr. Weaver provided details of the monthly report.

MOTION: A motion by Mr. Nyman, seconded by Ms. Rash to approve the May 2024 Financial Statements; Motion carried unanimously.

4. President’s Report

A. Fire Service Forum – Ms. Rash stated the recent BCATO Fire Services Forum was a homerun. She credited Adam Selisker, Kevin Dippolito, Ken Lichtenstein, and Ruth Schemm for the event’s success. Mr. Lichtenstein requested a meeting recap to assess the program’s success and plan for Part II. Mr. Pogonowski stated the event went well and is intrigued by the idea of a county-wide fire

service. Ms. Schemm stated the safety of many firefighters is being jeopardized due to the lack of proper decontamination facilities in many of the fire companies.

5. Executive Directors Report

A. Police Chief's Association of Bucks County- Golf Outing Sponsorship- Ms. Mulholland informed the Board that BCATO routinely supports the golf outing and that a flyer requesting a donation has been received.

MOTION: A motion by Mr. Lichtenstein, seconded by Ms. Schemm, authorized Ms. Mulholland to support the Police Chiefs' Association Annual Golf Outing with a \$200 tee sponsorship. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Solicitors Report- Nothing to report

7. Legislative Business- Ms. Mulholland informed the Board that she is continuing to monitor the legislation impacting the Burial Grounds Act, Act 12, and PA House Bills 1976 and 2450 that affect local zoning. Ms. Mulholland informed the Board that BCATO sent a letter opposing these bills to PA Representatives Munroe and Prokopiak of the Bucks County delegation who sit on the committee of jurisdiction.

8. Other Business- Springfield Township Internship Application. Mr. Hopkins and Springfield Township Manager, Rich Purcell explained that the intern project would focus on land preservation records including assessments of Cooks Creek, cataloging parks and open spaces, and the implementation of the Township's Comprehensive Plan.

MOTION: A motion by Mr. Nyman, seconded by Mr. Jones approved the Springfield Township Internship Application. Motion carried with Mr. Hopkins abstaining.

9. Adjournment With no further business, Mr. Nyman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jones, to adjourn the Zoom meeting at 1:12 pm; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacey Mulholland
Executive Director