



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, February 12 at 12:00 PM.

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
- Chester Pogonowski, Wrightstown Township
- 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

***NOT PRESENT**

1. Call to Order: President Rash called the Executive Board meeting to order at 12:03 pm.

2. Approval of the Minutes: January 8, 2025

MOTION: Motion made by Mr. Jones and seconded by Mr. Lichtenstein to approve the minutes. The motion carried with abstention from Ms. Lyons.

3. Treasurer's Report: January 2025

Mr. Weaver reported that the annual government report has been filed.

Consideration of January 2025 Financials

MOTION: Motion by Ms. Lyons to approve the 2025 January financials, motion seconded by Mr. Deon. The motion carried unanimously.

4. President's Report:

Convention/Panel Discussion:

Ms. Rash gave an update on the convention and the panel and stated that two people from the county 911 center will be panelists.

Ms. Rash discussed the fire event that was held last June and inquired about the 911 call that started the meeting. Ms. Schemm responded that she believed it was Stacey who arranged it with the main speaker from Upper Makefield. Ms. Schemm stated she would get the information and pass it along to Ms. Rash.

Ms. Rash explained in more detail regarding the emergency services speakers who will present at the convention. Stated that it will be an informational session with supervisors and elected officials having the opportunity to ask questions.

Jim Hopkins gave an example of a similar meeting in the Upper Bucks regional area which they did last year for fire discussions. Stated that two weeks ago upper bucks had a meeting of nine municipalities from the region talking about their situation. Added that the situation is muddled, and leadership is erratic. Stated that there are a lot of issues, and it is going to be an ongoing issue especially in the Upper Bucks area.

Mr. Hopkins reported that Springfield Township is served by multiple agencies including out of the county with Upper Saucon Township. Mr. Hopkins stated that he expects this to be a robust discussion and will influence some things.

Discussions ensued regarding distributing township codes that show the responsibilities of Supervisors. Mr. Lichtenstein also suggested reaching out to everyone on their board to personally invite them to the convention event.

Awarding the Metzger BCATO Service Award to Middletown Supervisor Anna Payne posthumously:

Continuing with her report, President Rash stated that they are making the intern scholarship in honor of Judith Algeo.

President Rash inquired about having the Metzger award go to Supervisor Anna Payne posthumously.

MOTION: Motion made by Lichtenstein to have the Metzger Award go to Anna Payne posthumously, motion seconded by Ms. Schemm, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hopkins stated that a teacher and three of the STEM students from Palisaded High School will be present for the youth award.

Terms of the board members were discussed in relation to the bylaws. Ms. Rash stated that they need to think about the appointments of the board. Mr. Nyman added that past presidents are members of the Board until no longer an elected official.

Mr. Weaver advised everyone that his term as treasurer is up at the end of this year as he will not be eligible any longer.

Ms. Lyons inquired about taking nominations. Mr. Pogonowski explained that at the convention we elect directors for this board, and then the board meets and elects the officers. Once the membership chooses the board the board chooses the president and vice president.

5. Executive Directors Report:

PSATS Conference

Ms. Courter stated due to a conflict in her schedule she will not be able to attend the PSATS conference and be at the suite to host.

Ms. Rash stated that she would not be at this year's PSATS conference because her daughter-in-law is having a grandchild at that time.

Discussions ensued regarding booking the suite and who could be there to host and schedule the caterer to come in.

Mr. Lichtenstein stated he could help with another member at the suite.

Ms. Rash stated that you do not have to do anything other than show up and have ice available for the drinks, the caterers do everything else.

Mr. Jones stated he could stay in the suite if no one else wanted to.

Ms. Courter stated she would book the suite with check-in on Sunday and check-out on Wednesday. She will order catering to host lunch on Monday and Tuesday in the suite.

6. Solicitors' / Legislative Report:

Ms. Kushto gave an update on legislation on a couple of bills that were introduced and are of interest; House Bill 209, regarding making ordinances effective immediately instead of the current five-day waiting period. Recapped the latest version to address Stirling Act 352, one paragraph regarding EIC tax. House Bill 375 required to include MPC of anyone who is building or subdivision with land development having a sign on property informing the neighbors. House Bill 388 allows municipalities to repair or replace private sewer laterals if they choose to do so. House Bill 529 addresses affordable housing, which will be a voluntary program and not a required program. Payments from a fund will be an incentive to allow for attainable housing, essentially creating a new zoning district.

7. Other Business-

Ms. Lyons inquired about having a resolution of support to get behind the legislation of attainable housing. Discussions ensued on the level of involvement and how this board communicates on whether they are for or against legislation.

Ms. Schemm brought into discussions a question from a new board member regarding PennDOT and their responsibility for resurfacing roads that are torn up from construction.

Discussions regarding PSATS and membership ensued.

MOTION

A motion made by Ms. Lyons to approve the subscription to PSATS magazine for the executive director, motion seconded by Ms. Rash. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Adjournment:

With no further business, made a motion, seconded by Mr. Nyman and seconded by Ms. Lyons to adjourn the meeting at 12:58 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie A. Courter

Executive Director