

DRAFT



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 9, 2025 , 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

DRAFT

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

2. Approval of the Minutes: March 12, 2025

MOTION: Motion made by Ms. Rash and seconded by Mr. Lichtenstein to approve the minutes. The motion carried.

3. Treasurer's Report: March 2025

MOTION: Mr. Lichenstein's motion was seconded by Ms. Rash to approve the 2025 March financials. The motion carried unanimously.

President Rash thanked Dick Weaver for his many years of service for being the Treasurer for BCATO. Ms. Rash gave thanks to Mr. Deon for being the new treasurer and for getting all the proper papers signed and working with Ms. Courter.

4. President's Report:

HARRISBURG VISIT

Ms. Rash reported that she and Stacey Mulholland were invited to the signing of the Cemetery Bill from Tim Brennan's office. This was supported and advocated from BCATO for years. Ms. Rash stated it was an honor to be part of and represent BCATO. Ms. Rash stated that there are legislative priorities the board can focus on, and Ms. Mulholland can be an asset because she has that connection with Brennan.

FALL EVENT:

Ms. Rash stated that she and Ruth spoke, and she would also like input from the board. Ms. Schemm reiterated on the success of the annual convention, and stated now she and Ken are working on the third part of the EMS services. They want to bring this to everyone's attention; rate payers and residents. Discussions ensued regarding response times and tax increases for services, and how they want to structure this topic for the Fall event with speakers. Ms. Rash suggested that Ruth get together with Chuck Pressler, who was on the panel at the conference, to help shape the topics and discussions.

DRAFT

Mr. Clemons recalled a statute that was introduced years ago that would require the insurance companies to pay EMS services directly. Mr. Clemons stated that this issue should be brought up again.

Ms. Shortall stated that this topic will be in at least one or two PSATS sessions at the upcoming convention.

Mr. Lichenstein stated that it is the intent at the end of this event people will go out and prepare for it in different ways. Ms. Rash added that it was a message from the two firefighters on the panel that this is the reality, and to start preparing or continue preparing.

Ms. Rash stated that for next month, focus on a date and location.

5. Executive Directors Report:

Ms. Courter reported that she is looking into options for a new website being as the cost has more than doubled this year. Ms. Courter will look into some options, such as other towns and PSATS, having the option of website hosting as well. The board was in consensus to have Ms. Courter purchase a new laptop due to the current laptop becoming unstable.

6. Solicitors' Report:

The summary of the resolutions report received from PSATS was discussed, and it was recommended that it be distributed to managers and the membership.

7. Legislative Business

OSHA Standards Mandate was discussed. It is on the House floor (House Bill 308). PSATS is recommending that it be rejected as it is an unfunded mandate. Mr. Nyman added that the house bill requires each municipality to adopt OSHA standards in how a municipality and fire departments function. Mr. Pogonowski gave an example of how this can affect a municipality such as simply changing a spark plug, which would have OSHA standards.

DRAFT

8. Adjournment:

With no further business, Mr. Jones made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rash to adjourn the meeting at 12:45 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie A. Courter

Executive Director