



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 September 9, 2025

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 4:05 pm.

2. Approval of the Minutes: August 15, 2025

MOTION: Motion made by Ms. Rash and seconded by Mr. Jones to approve the minutes, motion carried with the following abstaining; Ms. Lyons, Mr. Hopkins and Ms. Benitez.

3. Treasurer's Report: August 2025

MOTION: President Rash thanked Mr. Deon for getting everything together and doing a great job. Motion made by Ms. Rash and seconded by Mr. Jones to approve the August financial reports, motion carried.

4. President's Report:

Ms. Rash discussed the email she sent regarding the Regional Housing Symposium. Discussions ensued regarding the benefits of cohosting and being connected to Montgomery and Chester counties. It was discussed to possibly negotiate a discount of the fee since BCATO will be co-hosting.

Motion

Mr. Nyman moved that BCATO cover the cost of any board member attending the Housing Symposium, motion seconded by Mr. Jones, motion carried. Ms. Rash stated she will inform the contact that BCATO will agree to co-host and who will be attending from BCATO. Ms. Rash stated that it is being held on November 13th from 8am-1pm at the Inn in Villanova University in Wayne, Pa.

Mr. Cino cautioned with discussions of affordable housing and for BCATO to not jump into a position as a group. Mr. Lichenstein add that it should be explored broadly. Ms. Rasha agreed and stated there is no intention of taking a position. Discussions of housing and values of property ensued. Mr. Hopkins added that this symposium is informational and educational. Springfield Township is a long way from a townhouses or apartment complexes regarding affordable housing. Discussions of land preservation, impacts on stormwater and flooding and its effect on the value of land in the area ensued.

Ms. Rash discussed refocusing on the Sterling Act and getting updated in quired if there is anything else the they want the membership to focus on, Getting information out to upper bucks municipalities regarding the EMS Symposium was discussed.

Discussions of stormwater management and what is coming in 2026. Mr Pogonowski added that it is still in the draft stage there's nothing to do right

now, but this is coming. Ms. Kushto added that this will be tied to the MS 4 permits. Part of renewal will be this second round.

5. Executive Directors Report:

Ms. Courter stated that she didn't have much to report. Asked the board to consider a location for the Christmas luncheon meeting.

Ms. Rash reminded everyone about the Youth Award applications which are due Oct 31st. Ms. Courter stated she will send out the BCATO timeline/event calendar to have everyone review.

6. Solicitors Report:

No report

7. Legislative Business:

Mr. Nyman reported that not much going on except for the state budget issue, until that's passed, not a lot will get done.

8. Other Business-

Ms. Rash stated that PSATS is asking if our organization has any recommendations for nominations from the executive board to be on PSATS.

Motion made by Mr. Nyman nominating Mr. Lichenstein to the Rules Committee for PSATS, contingent on him being reelected, motion seconded by Ms. Lyons, all were in favor.

9. Adjournment:

With no further business, made a motion, seconded by Ms. Lyons and seconded by Ms. Rash to adjourn the meeting at 4:50 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie A. Courter

Executive Director