



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, October 8, 2025, at 4:00 PM.

MEMBERS: Michelle Benitez, Bensalem Township
*Maggie Rash, Buckingham Township-*left meeting at 4:15*
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 4:00 pm. President Rash thanked everyone who came to the Fall event. Ms. Rash stated that people did not want to leave and spoke with a lot of the sponsors. They were thanking BCATO and are happy.

President's Report:

Ms. Rash discussed sending out a letter and sharing information from an organization regarding Eliminating Municipal Policy Barriers to Green Stormwater Infrastructure Implementation – Phase 3 PA DEP Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Grant from Tom Gilbert. He sent an email with a manual his organization created along with a sample letter that could be shared with the BCATO membership. The letter describes what they do. Ms. Rash stated that if anyone wants this information to let her know.

Ms. Rash reported that she spoke with John Lewis from Lower Makefield at the Fall event she wanted to share with the board. They passed a resolution that amends the second-class code for general millage rate cap going up to 30 mils. Mr. Nyman added that this was submitted to PSATS, but wasn't sure if they adopted it. Ms. Rash stated she will share all this with the board. Mr. Nyman recommended that if a resolution is submitted by a municipality the resolution committee reviews it then they can decide to make a recommendation.

- 2. Approval of the Minutes: September 10, 2025**

MOTION: Motion made by Ms. Lyons and seconded by Ms. Schemm to approve the minutes, motion carried.

- 3. Treasurer's Report: September 2025**

MOTION: Motion made by Ms. Lyons and seconded by Mr. Jones to approve the September financial reports as submitted, motion carried.

- 4. Executive Directors Report**

Ms. Courter reported that the Fall Event went well and it was nice to speak with the sponsors and those who attended. Discussion ensued regarding setting a date for the December meeting luncheon at the Springtown Inn and asked what day they would like.

Ms. Lyons recommends keeping it on a Wednesday. The consensus was to set the December meeting at Springtown Inn on December 10th at noon.

Ms. Courter reported on getting a new printer company for the directory which looks to be cheaper and a better made directory booklet.

MOTION: Motion made by Ms. Lyons to approve without further approval for the directory printing, motion seconded by Mr. Lichtenstein, motion carried.

Ms. Courter continued with her report and gave an update on the EMS Symposium and reported on the number of those registered and asked the members to continue spreading the event. Ms. Schemm reported on the event and how it is being promoted. Ms. Courter stated she will also have handouts at the event promoting upcoming BCATO events. Mr. Hopkins stated that he has Richland Fire and Rescue coming. He spoke with a couple of the Milford Supervisors, who are covered by St Lukes in which they are extremely happy with that service. They have had them for 25 years (St. Lukes).

5. Solicitors' Report

No report

6. Legislative Business

Mr. Nyman reported that the state is tied up with working on passing the budget. Mr. Pogonowski reported on seeing from PSATS, legislation that was introduced earlier this year regarding planning units generating power for AI. This is taking out the overview from municipalities zoning and permits and moving it to the state level. The local fees will now go to the state, which would be devastating to the municipalities. PSATS is opposing this. Right now this bill is tied up, the house cannot come to an agreement. Mr. Pogonowski added that PSATS mentioned there is some move to tack this on the back end of the state budget to get this passed, which everyone should be concerned about. Mr. Nyman suggested that Mr. Pogonowski reach out to President Rash who can touch base with our representatives and Senators.

7. Other Business

EMS Symposium

Mr. Lichenstein reminded those who haven't signed up for the October 18th event to do so.

Mr. Hopkins reported on the upgrades at their municipal building and suggested an open house for the board to stop by and see it before the December luncheon meeting.

8. Adjournment

With no further business, made a motion, seconded by Ms. Lyons and seconded by Mr. Lichenstein to adjourn the meeting at 4:26 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie A. Courter

Executive Director