

## SPRING 2010 CONVENTION

### MONTGOMERY COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

#### EAST NORRITON TOWNSHIP – PRESIDENTIAL CATERERS MARCH 12, 2010

##### REGISTRATION AND GREETINGS:

The 2010 Spring Convention of the Montgomery County Association of Township Officials (MCATO) was called to order by President W. Keith Freed at 8:25 a.m. on Friday March 12, 2010 following a breakfast sponsored by Pennoni at Presidential Caterers, East Norriton, PA. Mr. Freed asked the attendees to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance. He then expressed thanks to Gus Mandraccia of Presidential Caterers, Shirley Jording and Carole Culbreth for their help in holding this convention after having to cancel it two weeks earlier due to the snow storm.

He then recited a brief history of Franconia Township, the host community, and he introduced the representatives from Franconia who were present. Mr. Freed also thanked all the vendors who were participating and asked all in attendance to view their exhibits at the break. He acknowledged MCATO's thanks to the various sponsors; Pennoni for the breakfast, CMX, PLGIT, and Rettew for the morning break and Comcast for the lunch.

##### NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT:

Joe Dunbar, Chairman of the Committee presented the proposed slate of candidates for the assembly to vote on. He also indicated that other candidates could be nominated by the floor if they so desired. The slate for 2010 MCATO Officers were: President – W. Keith Freed, Franconia; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Kandy Heckman, East Norriton; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Phillip Heilman, Lower Salford; Past President - Donald J. Gracia, East Norriton; Secretary – Ralph Volpe, Upper Merion; and Treasurer – Helmuth J.H. Baerwald, East Norriton. There were no other nominations from the floor. Mr. Dunbar indicated that the committee had suggested the three MCATO delegates to the PSATS convention be Keith Freed, Franconia; Don Gracia, East Norriton ; and Edward McBride, Upper Merion.

The proposed MCATO Executive Board Committees that Mr. Freed will appoint were: Audit-Brian Doremus, Marlborough; Convention/Vendors-Kevin Baver, Franconia; Legislation-Ronald Wagenmann, Upper Merion and Richard Brown Lower Providence; Membership – Marie Altieri, Lower Providence; Nominations – Joseph Dunbar, Lower Providence; Programs – Larry Comunale, Lower Gwynedd and Daniel Littlely, Towamencin; Public Relations – Arthur Bustard, Worcester and Daniel Kerr, Limerick.

On a motion by Ed Brandt and a second by Ron Wagenmann the officers and delegates were elected.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FALL CONVENTION

The next items of business was the approval of the September 25, 2009 FALL Convention minutes. The motion to approve was made by Ron Wagenmann with the second by Paul Williams. It was passed by a unanimous vote.

#### APPROVAL OF THE TREASURERS REPORT

Ralph Volpe presented the Treasurer's report for the period from December 31, 2008 to December 31, 2009. The opening balance was \$58,897.83 and the ending balance was \$51,067.37. For the period from December 31, 2009 until January 31, 2010 was opening balance of \$51,067.37 and the ending balance is \$54,642.90. On a motion by Ted Lochner and a second by Kandy Heckman the report was accepted.

#### SPEAKERS/PRESENTATIONS

Larry Comunale, program manager, introduced the first speaker and topic of the day. Jay Sklarow, of United Computer gave a presentation entitled: E-mails and other electronic tools that will get you into trouble. He reviewed some of the problem cases that municipalities were involved in as a result of electronic messaging issues. Townships need policies that must be followed. No questions where complicated issues are involved. Should be short brief messages. FACT issues only. Write all emails like an attorney will be reviewing it. He answered various questions from the convention audience on the issue.

#### THE COST OF HISTORIC RENOVATION/DEMOLITION

Joe Kuhls, esq. discussed some of the various questions that can arise and he had a handout that could be used to answer some of the questions and also had some case history. Taking property without just compensation is one of the main issues. Regulations have to be related to safety, health and welfare. You cannot regulate aesthetics. He went into detail about the recent case in Lower Merion as well as discussed the Boyd case in Philadelphia. There was also the Grand Central station issue which went to the U.S. Supreme Court.

#### RIGHT-TO-KNOW, ONE YEAR LATER

Audrey Bugliones, Esq. Staff Attorney for the PA Open Records Office gave a brief summary of the law and then answered numerous questions from the convention. The convention took the morning break from 10:05 a.m. and returned at 10:25 a.m.

#### STORM WATER MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Mike Fox, Chairman of the Board of Montgomery Township made this presentation with Douglas R. Blazey, Esq. They have been taking the lead together with other municipalities and MCATO providing some help and funding. When some questions were raised about the state legislature's role in resolving the issues, Rep. Kate Harper explained her role and the need for action at the State Level will be partially addressed by

one of the resolutions that MCATO will hopefully adopt today. There was detailed discussion on the issues and just where we need to go.

#### PSATS LEGISLATIVE UPDATE.

Holly Fischel-PSATS, Director of Research & Policy Development summarized where PSATS stood on some of the legislative issues in Harrisburg and what they were doing to attempt to successfully address the issues. She pointed out the diversity in the state and the difference of opinions from different sections of the Commonwealth on many issues. She responded to many questions.

#### PANEL OF STATE LEGISLATORS-THE STATE BUDGET CRUNCH AND OTHER ISSUES THAT WILL AFFECT MUNICIPALITIES

The panel was composed of Reps Kate Harper and Mike Vereb. They were not optimistic that the State would meet its' required deadlines to adopt a budget for the fiscal year. They were hopeful that it would not be as difficult as last year. Election year issues could affect this as the transportation funding is part of the \$3,000,000,000 shortfall. The tolling of Interstate 80 is a key issue in this funding. PA needs approval from Washington in order to address the tolling issue. That section of the state is against the idea. It costs about 80-100 million dollars a year to maintain that road and tolling could replace that drain on our transportation system. They discussed many of the financial issues as well as rationale of both sides.

#### PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE TO SCOTT SIBLEY

Outgoing President Sibley was presented with a plaque from MCATO for his dedicated years of service and President Freed invited the convention to attend the vendors exhibits and again thanked the sponsors for their contributions. The luncheon would begin in one hour at 12:45 p.m..

The afternoon session commenced at 1:00 p.m.. The various federal, commonwealth and county officials in attendance were introduced. There were two resolutions presented for presentation to the PSATS convention April 18<sup>th</sup> to April 21<sup>st</sup>. The 1<sup>st</sup> was: "Be it resolved that PSATS supports legislation that would require the Public Employee Retirement Commission to undertake a comprehensive study of the financial needs of Municipal Pension Plans in PA." the 2<sup>nd</sup> was: "Be it Resolved that PSATS establish A special work group comprised of Township officials, engineers and solicitors to be charged with overseeing the development and implementation of the DEP/EPA, MS4 program, including any DEP mandated Stormwater Ordinance, and make recommendations concerning legislative amendments and regulatory issues, including support for full state funding for the program." Both resolutions were adopted without opposition.

The date for the FALL Convention was set for Friday September 24<sup>th</sup> at Presidential Caterers. Door prizes were awarded and the convention was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.