

**2011 Spring Convention  
Montgomery County Association of Township Officials**

**East Norriton Township, Presidential Caterers  
Friday, February 25, 2011**

**Host Municipality - Upper Merion Township**

**Registration and Greetings**

The 2011 Spring Convention of MCATO was called to order at 8:37 a.m. on Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011 by President W. Keith Freed at Presidential Caterers, East Norriton, and Pennsylvania. Mr. Freed welcomed the attendees and asked everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance. Supervisor Bill Jenaway, Upper Merion Township, was introduced as the host municipality representative. Mr. Jenaway welcomed everyone to the 3011 Spring Convention and introduced the representatives from Upper Merion Township who were present at the meeting. A video presentation was played providing an overview of Upper Merion Township.

Mr. Freed concluded the introductions and greetings by thanking the 2011 Spring Convention Sponsors: Pennoni, T&M Associates, PLGIT, and Comcast.

**Approval of Minutes 2010 Fall Convention**

Ms. Kandice Heckman of East Norriton Township made a motion to approve the minutes as presented from the Fall 2010 minutes. Mr. James Serratore, East Norriton Township, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurers Report**

Mr. Kevin D. Bayer, Treasurer presented the Treasury Report for the period of January 1, 2011 to January 31, 2011 reporting that there was a beginning balance of \$50,862.20 and a current balance of \$57, 7733.58. Mr. Ed Brandt, Lower Gwynedd Township, made a motion to accept the report as presented. Ms. Elaine Dewan, Limerick Township, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Resolutions**

Mr. Ron Wagenmann, Legislative Chairman, presented 4 Resolutions are scheduled for action following the luncheon.

**New Members**

Mr. Freed then welcomed and acknowledged the new members to MCATO. He reported that there are 13 new members including: Lower Merion Township, Lower Pottsgrove Township, Upper Dublin Township, Upper Gwynedd Township, Upper Moreland Township, West Norriton Township, West Pottsgrove Township, Bridgeport Borough, Norristown Borough, North Wales Borough, Pennsburg Borough, Red Hill Borough, Trappe Borough, and West Conshohocken Borough.

### **PSATS 2010 Youth Award**

Mr. Freed then introduced Elam Herr, PSATS, to present the 2010 PSATS Youth Award to Max's Mission of Whitemarsh Township. Mr. Herr explained that Max was a young boy who while traveling home from the shore with his mother wanted to know why there was all this trash along the road and why no one was cleaning it up. His mother had suggested that maybe he could do something about it. Max organized a group of children and together they went around and cleaned up various municipal parks by picking up trash, pulling weeds and other ground maintenance. The second time Max was able to obtain sponsorships and furthered his efforts by planting additional trees in the park(s). Mr. Herr concluded that on behalf of PSATS, he was very proud to present this award to Max's Mission.

### **FEMA Floodplain Map Presentation**

Mr. Drew Shaw from the Montgomery County Planning Commission and Ms. Kristina Henderson from the Montgomery County Conservation District were introduced and presented an overview of the FEMA Floodplain Map Modernization Program. The program is scheduled to begin in 2013.

### **Economic Value of Preserved Open Space**

Dulcie Flaherty and Molly Morrison of the Natural Lands Trust presented the findings of a study that the organization had commissioned entitled "The Economic Value of Preserved Open Space". Overall the results of the study emphasized how beneficial and important open space preservation is and will continue to be in the future.

### **Montgomery County Open Space Program - Status Report**

Mr. Michael Stokes of the Montgomery County Planning Commission presented an overview of the Montgomery County Open Space Program by reviewing past successes and the future of the program. Mr. Stokes reported that the program has received \$95 million in funding and that \$83 million has been spent. Approximately \$7.4 million of the remaining funds are obligated to various grants. He estimated about \$7.4 Million of the remaining funds was already earmarked.

### **2011 MCATO Executive Officers**

Mr. Larry Comunale reported that there would be a vote taken after the luncheon for the 2011 MCATO Executive Officers. He presented the slate of officers.

### **Montgomery County Transportation Projects**

Mr. Leo Bagley provided an overview of the current priority transportation projects in Montgomery County. He reviewed the Retro-reimbursement program explaining that this program allows for the local municipalities to use local bidding guidelines with minimal reviews from state agencies, but the local municipality must use all their own funds and then submit a bill for reimbursement. He noted that the 309 Expressway project is complete. The 202 Parkway; Phase 1 of the 309 Connector; Plymouth Meeting Reconstruction; and the PA Turnpike widening projects were all under construction. He closed by noting that the future funding for numerous transportation projects is uncertain.

### **Flood-Related Roadway Closures**

Mr. Bill Jenaway, Upper Merion Township, provided a report on flood-related roadway closures and municipal procedures in dealing with individuals who disregard such closures. He outlined three major items municipalities need to consider: pre-event general education; planning and logistics; and supporting legislation that make the defiant motorists responsible for fees associated with disregarding a closure.

### **Morning Break – Refreshments**

### **Storm-water Management Update**

Mr. Michael Fox, Montgomery Township, reported that an extension has been granted regarding the PAG-13 since DEP and EPA are still disputing the details of the proposed regulations. The municipalities maintain the position that we can only be responsible for what we control and that we do not have the authority to do more under the Commonwealth Constitution. Mr. Fox continued that EPA has stated its displeasure with the performance of DEP in relation to the MS4 program and have threatened to remove DEP from their oversight and administer the MS4 program themselves. This act would be extremely problematic for municipalities. Mr. Fox warned against misinterpreting the extension that has been granted and reported that the tougher requirements are coming and it is just a matter of when. He closed by encouraging everyone to educate their residents and bring them up to speed on this issue.

### **Unfunded Mandates**

Mr. Phillip Klotz, Assistant Director, PA Local Government Commission, reviewed the particulars of study that was commissioned through Senate Resolution 323 - Study of Mandates Placed on PA Local Governments. He explained that the study focused on the 20 most burdensome mandates according to local municipalities. He reviewed the mandates that made the list - some of which pertained to pensions; road resurfacing; prevailing wage; Act 101; and trash tipping fees. He remarked that the commission will perform a 4-county pilot study followed by a stat-wide survey of all the municipalities. The results will be combined to complete the study and findings will then be issued.

### **PSATS Legislative Update**

Mr. John Haiko, PSATS President, was introduced and remarked legislative changes being considered and/or enacted in Pennsylvania and how these changes have impacted PSATS. Mr. Elam Herr provided an overview of current proposed legislation and how such legislation can potentially affect municipalities.

### **Vendors Break**

Mr. Freed announced the vendors break and encouraged all attendees to visit the vendors present that are essential in making the MCATO convention a success.

The afternoon session commenced at 12:45 p.m. and the various state and county legislative representatives in attendance were introduced

### **Resolutions and Nominations**

Mr. Ron Wagenmann presented 4 resolutions scheduled for action:

Resolution #1 - Mr. Paul Williams made a motion to approve the resolution and Mr. Ed Brandt seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Resolution #2 - Mr. Ed Brandt made a motion to approve the resolution and Mr. Paul Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Resolution #3 - Mr. Paul Williams made a motion to approve the resolution and Mr. Ed Brandt seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Resolution #4 - Mr. Greco made a motion to approve the resolution and Mr. Brandt seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The Resolutions will be forwarded to PSATS for consideration at their annual convention.

Mr. Joe Dunbar presented the 2011 MCATO candidates and requested that a vote be taken to approve the slate as presented. He asked if there were any additional nominations. None heard. Mr. Christopher Canavan made a motion to approve the slate of candidates and Mr. Ed Brandt seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### **Closing Remarks**

Mr. Freed thanked Kevin D. Baver and Tina M. Blain for their assistance with the 2011 Spring Convention. He also thanked Ms. Shirley Jording for her continued support of MCATO over the years and wished her well in her retirement, Gus Mandraccia of Presidential Caterers and all the vendors and sponsors who participated in the convention.

Mr. Freed noted the PSATS Convention will be held on April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011 through April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011 in Hershey, Pennsylvania and added that MCATO will be hosting a Hospitality Suite at the Hotel Hershey. The 2011 Fall MCATO Convention will be on Friday, September 30, 2011 at Presidential Caterers, East Norriton, Pennsylvania

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.