



4855 Woodland Drive  
Enola, PA 17025-1291  
Telephone: (717) 763-0930  
Fax: (717) 763-9732  
Internet: www.psats.org

PENNSYLVANIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

# news release

April 15, 2019

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### Contacts:

Ginni Linn  
Director of Communications  
717-805-3588 (cell; through April 17)  
717-763-0930, ext. 127 (after April 17)

Jeffrey Sutton  
Hemlock Township Manager  
(570) 784-6178  
sutton@hemlocktownship.org

***EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE: A high-resolution photo of the award presentation is attached to this email. The photo caption appears at the end of this release.***

## **Multimunicipal Police Agreement Receives Association's Excellence in Intergovernmental Cooperation Award**

Hemlock and Madison townships, Columbia County, received the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors' Excellence in Intergovernmental Cooperation Award this morning during the association's Excellence Awards ceremony.

The event, which recognizes the significant achievements of townships and their officials from across the state, was held as part of PSATS' 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Educational Conference and Exhibit Show in Hershey. Today is the opening day of the conference, which has attracted attendees from every county in Pennsylvania except Philadelphia, which has no townships.

-more-

The award, which is cosponsored by PSATS and the Pennsylvania Association of Councils of Governments (PACOG), was established to honor communities that are working together to find creative ways to complete projects and provide services more efficiently and cost-effectively.

In January 2018, the full-time Hemlock Township Police Department agreed to start patrolling Madison Township during set hours and provide 24/7 emergency response. Previously, Madison had only a part-time department. The new agreement gave the township round-the-clock coverage at half the cost, plus safety enforcement on its roads.

Mid-year, Millville Borough approached Hemlock Township and forged a similar agreement to replace its part-time, limited coverage police department. By the end of the year, Millville Area School District had also partnered with Hemlock Township to provide a full-time school resource officer.

“With Hemlock Township supplying service to the three entities, it allowed us to increase our police force from six full-time officers to nine and add two part-time officers,” Hemlock Township manager Jeffrey Sutton says. “This extension of service allowed four government agencies to come together to supply a costly service at a reduced price for all, as well as increase the number of officers on the street.”

“We’ve had nothing but positive responses from everyone in the township,” Madison Township supervisor Terry Rider says. “The police have a lot more visibility than before. It’s really been great for our township.”

“We often hear criticism of townships closing police departments and turning over patrol to the State Police,” PSATS Executive Director David Sanko says. “Well, that’s not so. Here is a case of locals helping locals to provide enhanced police coverage successfully and cost-effectively.”

\* \* \*

The Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors represents Pennsylvania's 1,454 townships of the second class and is committed to preserving and strengthening township government and securing greater visibility and involvement for townships in the state and federal political arenas. Townships of the second class cover 95 percent of Pennsylvania's land mass and represent more residents — 5.5 million — than any other type of political subdivision in the commonwealth.

###