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June 23, 2020

Welcome to the PSATS Morning News.

Missed yesterday's PSATS Morning News? No problem! A [PSATS Morning News Library](#) is available online for your viewing pleasure!

We're excited about this new concept and want to hear what you think. Email comments and suggestions to morningnews@psats.org.

Township Video News



We've come up with a recipe for success for our members. Watch to find out what PSATS has cooking. (1:13)

Latest News

[PSATS Hosts Municipal Oversight Session on Use of Force and Public Protests](#)

During these turbulent times, an assessment of your police department's use of force policies and internal affairs procedures is recommended for municipal officials responsible for police oversight. On July 8, from 9:30-11:00 am, PSATS will be hosting a virtual class on "Police Use of Force & Local Government Oversight," in which Christopher Gerber and Andrew Rongaus of Siana Law will familiarize local elected and appointed officials with the fundamentals of lawful and excessive use of force, internal affairs procedures, and lawful and unlawful public protests. They will also identify common mistakes by municipal police policymakers. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

[PennDOT Asks Townships to Inspect Older Traffic Poles](#)

All townships that have traffic signals should have received a letter from the state Department of Transportation about a recent structural failure of a traffic signal pole that had extensive corrosion and loss of structural steel material. [Read full story](#).

[IFO Releases Commonwealth Revenue Projections for 2020-21](#)

The Independent Fiscal Office (IFO) has released its official revenue estimate for the commonwealth's 2020-21 fiscal year. [Read full story](#).

[DEP Announced Online Permit Applications](#)

The state Department of Environmental Protection has a new online permit application tool, [OnBase-DEP Upload Form](#), that will allow for faster processing. Paper applications will still be accepted, but applicants are strongly encouraged to use the new tool to improve the efficiency of the submission and review process. [Click here](#) to learn more.

[Pa. Prison Population Reduced by 3,471 Since March 1](#)

Gov. Tom Wolf has announced that since March 1, the population of those in state correctional facilities has been reduced by 3,471, the largest multiple-month decrease ever experienced by the Department of Corrections. Less than 1 percent of the state prison population has tested positive for COVID-19 since early March. [Click here](#) for more information.

[2020 Census: Did you Know?](#)

Did you know that the census is written into the Constitution? That's right! Article I, Section 2, of the U.S. Constitution prescribes that a count of the U.S. population be done every ten years. Be sure to remind your residents to complete their 2020 Census today to ensure an accurate count of your township! Go to my2020census.gov for more information.

Legislation & Policy



The House and Senate are scheduled to be in session today, June 23rd.

House Unanimously Elects Speaker

On June 22, the House unanimously elected Representative Bryan Cutler (R-Lancaster) as the 141st Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. Cutler was first elected to the House in 2006 and previously served as the House Majority Leader.

House Republican Leadership Elections

Yesterday, the House Republican Caucus also held leadership elections as a result of the Cutler promotion. Representative Kerry Benninghoff (R-Centre) was elected as House Majority Leader, Representative Donna Oberlander (R-Clarion) as Majority Whip and Representative Martin Causer (R-McKean) as chair of the House Majority Policy Committee.

Senate Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee Approves First Responder Legislation

The Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee reported HB 1459 from committee. This legislation would create the Statewide Critical Incident Stress Management Program, a statewide program to assist first responders with managing stress and preventing stress related illness. HB 1459 fulfills a recommendation of the SR 6 commission report and is now before the full Senate. PSATS supports HB 1459 and will continue to support recommendations of the SR 6 commission report.

Senate Communications & Technology Committee Approves Broadband Legislation

On June 22, the Senate Communications and Technology Committee reported three bills to assist in the deployment of broadband services from committee.

The first, SB 835 would create a broadband funding pilot program to provide grants for high-speed broadband service infrastructure deployment in unserved areas of Pennsylvania. SB 835 would require that the grants be issued to entities that have demonstrated the ability to construct and administer high-speed broadband services and

stipulates that the grants can only be used in unserved areas.

Finally, SB 1118 and HB 2438 would authorize an electric cooperative corporation or an affiliate of an electric cooperative corporation to provide broadband services or construct, operate and maintain broadband facilities through an existing easement owned, held or used by the electric cooperative corporation

SB 835, SB 1118, and HB 2438 are now before the Senate for their consideration. PSATS supports these bills as currently written and will continue as efforts to ensure the safe and orderly deployment of broadband services.

Senate Transportation Committee Approves Personal Delivery Device Legislation

On June 22, the Senate Transportation Committee approved SB 1199 which would provide for the operation of personal delivery devices (PPDs) in Pennsylvania. PDDs are autonomous robots designed to deliver packages to consumers. SB 1199 would authorize local governments to prohibit PPDs on local roadways if they would constitute a hazard. PSATS is continuing efforts to ensure that this this legislation clearly provides local governments with the ability to restrict the operation of PPDs on local roads and sidewalks, when applicable.

Senate Law & Justice Committee Approves Police Reform Legislation

On June 22, the Senate Law & Justice Committee approved two police reform bills, SB 459 and SB 1205. SB 459 would require municipal police departments to adopt a use of force policy and provide training to officers on said policy. These departments would also be required to report use of force occurrences to the Pennsylvania State Police. SB 1205 would prohibit the use of chokeholds, except in situations where the use of deadly force is permitted.

SB 459 and SB 1205 are now before the Senate for their consideration.

Learn

Webinar - Run, Hide, Fight! - Responding To Active Shooter/Intruder Situations - 6/24/20

Are your township employees and officials prepared to appropriately respond in the event of an active shooter or intruder in your township building or at one of your public meetings? In this webinar, Trooper Kelly Smith with the Pennsylvania State Police will focus on active shooter/intruder awareness, outline the key safety concepts of Run, Hide, Fight, and provide best practices for your townships to implement to enhance personal and public safety. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Public Safety Point. [Click here](#) to register.

When To Call Your Solicitor: 5 Volunteer Fire Company Issues - Virtual - 6/24/20

This session brings together a panel of solicitors, who will discuss five real-life legal issues with volunteer fire companies. The discussion will touch on the Right-to-Know Law, potential employment concerns, authorizing fire protection service, conflicts and ethics issues, and litigation. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Public Safety Point. [Click here](#) to register.

CDL - Probable Cause Training For CDL Supervisory Personnel - Virtual Training - 7/7/20

State and federal regulations require every employer who has CDL employees driving vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating or operating weight of more than 26,001 pounds used on public roads to participate in a drug and alcohol testing program. These same regulations also require that such employers train all personnel who supervisor employees with commercial driver's licenses (CDLs) in handling suspected on-the-job drug or alcohol use. This workshop addresses these federal requirements by providing supervisory personnel with a working understanding of the federal CDL regulations, including on-the-job probable cause procedures. Eligible for 3 PMGA



Public Safety points. [Click here](#) to register.

For full list of webinars and classes please visit <https://learn.psats.org>.



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