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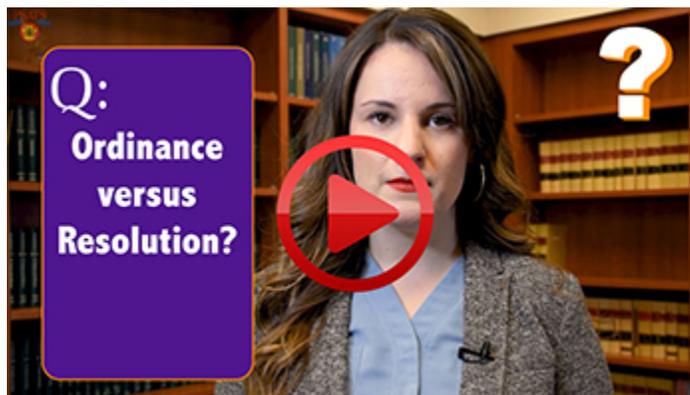
April 30, 2020

Welcome to the PSATS Morning News, our new email digest.

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



Did you ever wonder about the difference between an ordinance and a resolution? Well, wonder no more.

Latest News

[PSATS Town Hall: Township Budget Impact Today, April 30, at 4 p.m.](#)

The COVID-19 pandemic has taken over the world, and the news is changing at a rapid rate. Townships, like many other essential industries and governmental entities, are trying to keep up with new information and changes. To help your township prepare, PSATS is hosting its fifth web-based Town Hall, with special guests from the state Department of Community and Economic Development to talk about the budget implications of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As usual, PSATS staff will also be on hand to talk about the latest guidance from the state and how it applies to your township. Don't miss this important Town Hall today, April 30, at 4 p.m.

Participants will have the opportunity to submit questions before and during the Town Hall, which is limited to the first 500 registrants and is free. [Click here](#) to register.

[Some Detail on 'Yellow' Status Provided, More to Come](#)

State Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine reminded Pennsylvanians that when areas of the state are moved to "yellow" status on May 8, to remember that social distancing and wearing of masks remain critical. Yellow will be a signal for caution, not a switch to go back to pre-COVID-19 routines. Teleworking will continue to be encouraged, and residents will be asked to make weekly, instead of daily, trips for essential items. Levine urged Pennsylvanians not to visit those who are sick or have compromised immune systems.

Levine noted that the Wolf administration is working to finalize plans for the yellow phase and said that more information on business openings will be discussed this week. Contact tracing plans are nearly finalized and will also be released this week. For more information on the governor's reopening plan, [click here](#).

[Volunteer Loan Assistance Program Defers Payments for April to June](#)

The Wolf administration will temporarily defer payments on loans to volunteer fire departments under the Volunteer Loan Assistance Program for April, May, and June. The program provides loans to volunteer fire companies, ambulance services, and rescue squads for purchasing apparatus, facilities, and equipment.

There will be no interest or penalties assessed for borrowers who accept this deferment. For those borrowers who wish to decline deferment and continue to make payments, please notify the Office of the State Fire Commissioner. For more information about these

loans, [click here](#).

[Administration Outlines Food Security Efforts](#)

Gov. Tom Wolf and state Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding outlined steps the administration has taken to address food insecurity in the commonwealth by protecting supply chains, advocating for waivers and resources, and ensuring access to healthy food.

[Read full story](#).

[Trump Not Extending Federal Social Distancing Guidelines, Signs Executive Order](#)

President Donald Trump announced that he does not plan to extend the President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America past today, when this guidance is scheduled to expire. Trump noted that the guidelines will be fading out as he supports efforts of governors to begin a phased reopening of the economy.

In addition, Trump signed an executive order to direct the operations of meat and poultry processors to continue uninterrupted to the maximum extent possible and ensure worker safety by following the latest guidelines from the CDC and OSHA.

[Office of Open Records Updates Right-to-Know Law Guidance](#)

The state Office of Open Records (OOR) has updated its Right-to-Know Law guidance to address appeals to the office during the emergency declaration. The OOR is now invoking a 30-day extension on all incoming appeals, rather than an indefinite extension. In cases where the agency or requester is (or both are) unable, due to the COVID-19 emergency, to meaningfully participate in an appeal under the deadlines set by the OOR, the OOR may take additional extensions. [Click here](#) for the updated guidance.

[DEP Warns that “Flushable” Wipes are NOT Flushable](#)

The state Department of Environmental Protection is encouraging Pennsylvanians to only flush toilet paper and human waste into septic and sewer systems. All other non-flushable items, including disinfecting wipes, should be disposed of in the trash. [Read full story](#).

[Pa. State Police Updates Enforcement Totals for COVID-19 Orders](#)

The Pennsylvania State Police data has been updated for actions taken through April 28 against non-life-sustaining businesses that failed to comply with Gov. Tom Wolf's order closing their physical locations. The PSP has issued 295 warnings and 1 citation.

In addition, since April 1, the PSP reported issuing 26 warnings and 4 citations for failure to comply with the stay-at-home order. Gov. Tom Wolf said this week that the PSP will not be aggressively enforcing the stay-at-home order. Rather, Wolf is relying on Pennsylvanians' good judgment.

The PSP is now reporting warnings and violations of the commonwealth's Health & Safety

Measures for Life-Sustaining Businesses. Since April 19, 18 warnings have been issued but no citations. [Click here](#) for more information, including breakdowns by PSP Troop.

Legislation & Policy



The House will convene for session today April 30th.

The Senate is in recess on a 12-hour call of the chair. Watch session live [here](#).

Governor Signs COVID-19 Enforcement Officers Disability Benefits Legislation into Law

On April 29th, Governor Wolf signed Act 17 of 2020 (formerly HB 1869) into law. Act 17 provides disability benefits, in accordance with Section 1(A) of the Enforcement Officer Disability Law (*Heart & Lung Act*) to first responders that contract, are diagnosed or subject to quarantine related to COVID-19 exposure. Act 17 provides benefits for members of the national guard activated during the current emergency who sustain an injury and are not otherwise compensated.

This Act also allows the Department of Health to grant staffing waivers to EMS crews, throughout all of Pennsylvania on a case by case basis.

COVID-19 Notification Legislation Adopted by Senate

On April 29th, the Senate adopted **SB 1110**. This legislation would require, under a proclamation of disaster emergency by the governor that is based upon a communicable disease, the secretary of health or local health authority to release identifiable health information to 911 centers, law enforcement officers, fire department personnel and emergency medical services personnel in each county. SB 1110 would also require these individuals to follow all applicable federal and state laws, regulations and confidentiality standards.

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