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May 6, 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.

Latest News

[PA COVID Case Counts Trend Down; Wolf Hints Southwest Counties Could Reopen Soon](#)

On Tuesday, Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine announced that the state reported 865 new positive cases of COVID-19, marking the third day in a row that the state has reported fewer than 1,000 cases. Total positive cases of COVID-19 have reached 50,957 statewide, with 3,012 total deaths. [Read full story.](#)

Act 17 Advice for Townships with Police

Townships with police should note that Act 17 of 2020 provides benefits at full salary for up to 60 days per incident if an officer is unable to work because they have contracted or been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are subject to a quarantine. This benefit does not require that COVID-19 be work-related. While supportive of township police, PSATS opposed Act 17 because it is an unfunded mandate.

If your township receives such a request, it should provide notice before complying that payment of full salary benefits under Act 17 of 2020 does not constitute acceptance of a workers' compensation injury or a Heart and Lung claim and that medical claims should be submitted to the township health plan.

Ethics Commission's Toll-Free Number Compromised

Township officials who need to get in touch with the State Ethics Commission should note that the commission's toll-free 800 number has been compromised, which has made it difficult to leave messages. Until this issue is resolved, use the commission's main number: (717) 783-1610.

Legislation & Policy



The House and Senate are both on a 12-hour call of the chair.

Alternate Sewer Plan Legislation Reported from Committee

On May 5th, the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee reported SB 1030 from committee. This legislation would amend the Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act to require the state Department of Environmental Protection to accept any conventional or alternate sewage system that meets site conditions at a proposed new land development. SB 1030 is now before the House for their consideration.

Public-Private Partnership Transportation Legislation Approved by the House

On May 5th, the House approved HB 2065. This legislation would amend the definition of "public entity" to include municipalities, enabling municipalities to participate in public-private partnerships. HB 2065 would also increase reporting requirements as well as add truck parking, weigh station bypassing, electronic toll payment, and snow and ice removal for commercial vehicles to the list of transportation-related activities. HB 2065 is now awaiting committee assignment in the Senate.

Learn

[COVID-19'S Impact Upon Township Police Departments - May 7, 2020](#)

This webinar, presented by Christopher Gerber and Andrew M. Rongaus of Siana Law, will offer township officials, police command staff, and township solicitors practical guidance on how to deal with issues that arise from the COVID-19 pandemic – with sample forms for immediate use. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Public Safety Point. [Click here](#) to register.



[Three Parks, Same Grant Program, Different Styles - May 13, 2020](#)

Three central Pennsylvania municipalities submitted applications to the same grant program for significantly different municipal parks. This webinar analyzes the steps each community took to successfully secure funding despite the uniqueness of their projects. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Planning/Zoning Point. [Click here](#) to register.



[Public Private Partnerships & Township Identity - May 20, 2020](#)

A major problem facing municipalities is a lack of funding for infrastructure, services and facilities. Almost any community can benefit from improving blighted areas, activating unused spaces or creating more pedestrian trails. What if these needs could be met at no cost to the taxpayer? This webinar is designed to provide participants with information on how new types of Public Private Partnerships can help townships meet those needs, including case studies on how Pennsylvania townships are leveraging those partnerships. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Administration Point. [Click here](#) to register.



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



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