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June 17, 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.

Save the Dates - 2020 PSATS Regional Forums



The PSATS Regional Forums, like a miniature version of the PSATS Conference, is the perfect opportunity for townships (big and small) to network and become well educated in local issues. These will be our first in-person classes since the COVID-19 pandemic and PSATS will make sure to meet state and federal safety guidelines. To register and learn

more, visit regionalforum.psats.org

Latest News

[White House Issues Executive Order on Safe Policing](#)

Yesterday, President Donald Trump Signed an [Executive Order on Safe Policing for Safe Communities](#). The order strongly encourages police departments to become credentialed by a certified independent body that meets standards set by the U.S. Attorney General and ties grants from the attorney general to this funding.

It creates a database to track decertification, termination, and criminal convictions of law enforcement officers and makes grants dependent on data submission. In addition, the order provides for proper training of officers to respond to individuals facing mental health challenges, homelessness, and addiction; directs the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services to survey community support models for the president; and prioritizes resources to implement these models. The order directs the attorney general to develop new legislation to implement the executive order.

[Health Reminds Pennsylvanians About Lyme Disease, Warns Some Symptoms Similar to COVID-19](#)

The state Department of Health reminded Pennsylvanians to take proper steps to prevent against tick bites and recognize the symptoms of Lyme disease, as some symptoms of Lyme disease are similar to those of COVID-19. Ticks can carry Lyme disease, among other dangerous diseases, that can be severe if not treated properly. [Read full story](#).

[Office of Open Records Releases Case Law Index](#)

The Office of Open Records has released the Right-to-Know Law Case Law Index, a new document designed to help requesters, agencies, and attorneys quickly find significant Right-to-Know Law cases. [Click here](#) for the index.

[Aging Releases Reopening Guidance for Senior Centers, Adult Day Centers](#)

The state Department of Aging has issued reopening guidance for aging service providers located in counties that are entering the green phase. These procedures are for resuming operations of adult day care centers, senior community centers, and aging and protective services. [Click here](#) to read the guidance.

Legislation & Policy



The House is in recess until June 22 while the Senate remains on a 12-hour call of the President pro tempore.

Federal News: Include Smaller Communities in Direct Transportation Payments

On June 16th, the National Association of Towns & Townships (NATaT) sent a letter to Representative Craig (D-Minnesota), who serves on the committee on transportation and infrastructure, requesting the direct allocation of federal transportation dollars to towns and townships. The letter highlighted the fact that in many states, towns and townships manage more miles of roads than any other government entity. Those roads are not on the federal highway system but are the starting point for moving agriculture and commerce onto our nation's highways. For example, townships in Pennsylvania manage 64 percent of the state's road miles and receive less than 1 percent of federal funds.

PSATS will continue to work with NATaT as well as members of the Pennsylvania Congressional delegation on this issue.

[Click here](#) to read the letter.

Learn

[Funding Municipal Stormwater Management In PA - Virtual - 6/18/20](#)

This session will explore the emergence of stormwater fees and how they are determined. Lessons and successes will be discussed as participants work through exercises that will help them develop fee programs. The presenters will also provide strategies to build constituent support. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Public Works Point. [Click here](#) to register.



[Using Checklists To Work Smarter - Virtual - 6/18/20](#)

Have you ever wished someone would hand you checklists to make your administrative life easier? This workshop is the answer to your prayers. Attendees will receive several sample checklists for such tasks as taking minutes, developing and implementing budgets, adopting ordinances and resolutions, following the Sunshine Law, reviewing land development applications, and other topics. You can use these checklists to assess and improve your own administrative procedures. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Administration Point. [Click here](#) to register.

[Webinar - Today's Liability Issues: From COVID-19 To Sexual Assault To Government Immunity - 6/18/20](#)

This program, by municipal attorney Tony Sherr, will examine the impact of COVID-19 on tort liability issues facing political subdivisions and will highlight specific situations where they could face tort liability. He will also review the potential ramifications for political subdivisions of the recent amendment to the Immunity Act applying to sexual assaults and provide an overview of the Political Subdivision Torts Claim Act. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Administration Point. [Click here](#) to register.

[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.



[Webinar - Emergency Management Q&A Panel With PEMA Area Offices - 7/1/20](#)

Join us on July 1 as PSATS welcomes representatives from PEMA’s Western, Central and Eastern Area Offices to answer your questions on emergency management-related topics. The panel will cover a variety of topics, including best practices for emergency management structure, handling emergency declarations, resource request procedures and reimbursement-related issues.



Attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions during the webinar, but can also submit questions in advance at learn@psats.org. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Public Safety Point. [Click here](#) to register.

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



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