



October 7, 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.

Latest News

[**Auditor General Confirms Inconsistencies in DCED Waiver Process**](#)

Pennsylvania Auditor General Eugene DePasquale provided a status update on his ongoing audit of the state Department of Community and Economic Development's waiver process for businesses that appealed Gov. Wolf's COVID-19 closure order.

"So far, we've found that more than 500 businesses received answers from DCED that later changed," DePasquale said. "The waiver program appeared to be a subjective process built on shifting sands of changing guidance, which led to significant confusion among business owners." [Click here](#) for more.

[**New Pennsylvania Gathering Limits**](#)

As reported yesterday, Gov. Tom Wolf and Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine have revised Pennsylvania's gathering limits effective October 9. The orders do not exempt local government and the FAQs note that the orders are intended to apply to local government meetings. [Click here](#) for the press release, the orders, and FAQs on the change.

Last Call for Lehigh Virtual Regional Forum Registration! Lackawanna in November

Lehigh and surrounding counties should be sure to register for the [PSATS Virtual Regional Forum – Lehigh October 15](#) and take advantage of this incredible learning and networking opportunity.

Among the topics to be covered include fire service challenges, paving, connecting with your community, zoning districts, and emergency management.

Log on and join us for this great opportunity! To register for Lehigh's Virtual Regional Forum, [click here](#). The last Virtual Regional Forum is taking place on November for the Lackawanna and surrounding counties. To register for the final Regional Forum, [click here](#).

Legislation & Policy



The Senate was in session yesterday October 6 but is now in recess. Both chambers are scheduled to return to session on October 19.

Senate Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee Approves Fire & EMS Reform Legislation

On October 6, the Senate Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee approved HB 1673 which, as amended, would incorporate 13 fire and EMS reform measures that have passed either the Senate or House this session relating to the Fire Commissioner's Office, the Fire & EMS Grant Program, the Fire Relief Program, the Volunteer Loan Assistance Program, and the authorization for counties and school districts to provide property tax credits to volunteer first responders.

Specifically, the following bills were incorporated into House Bill 1673:

- SB 447: Fire Relief: Length of Service Awards;
- SB 785: Volunteer Loan Assistance Program: Eligibility for Career Fire;
- SB 796: Volunteer Loan Assistance Program: Increase in Loan Amounts;
- SB 908: Fire Relief and Volunteer Loan Assistance Program Provisions;
- SB 910: Fire & EMS Grant Reauthorization;
- SB 932: Fire Relief: Eligibility for Combination Departments;
- SB 987: Fire Commissioner's Office Enhancements;

- HB 1448: Volunteer Loan Assistance Program: Eligibility for Career Fire;
- HB 1673: Fire Relief Measures;
- HB 1705: Permits Counties to Provide Property Tax Credits to First Responders;
- HB 1816: Volunteer Loan Assistance Program: Increase in Loan Amounts
- HB 1834: Fire & EMS Grant Reauthorization and
- HB 1839: Permits School Districts to Provide Property Tax Credits to First Responders.

HB 1673 is now before the full Senate for their consideration.

Learn

2020 TEMA Fall Forum - Virtual - 10/8-9/20

This is a separate 2-day virtual event that is designed to meet the educational needs and busy schedules of all those responsible for your municipality's emergency management program, including elected officials, municipal managers, road crew/public works personnel, and emergency management coordinators (EMCs). [Click here](#) to register and view agenda.



Human Resources & Labor Management Institute - Virtual - 10/13-14/20

This online class is a two half-day event and is a must-attend for anyone who has responsibility for HR and personnel management in their township. Among the topics to be covered include hot topics, employment in the time of COVID, attendance, pay issues and "Stump the Lawyers." This class is eligible for 6 PMGA Administration points, 6 CLE Credits (additional fee of \$15.00 per credit) and 6 SHRM credits. [Click here](#) to register.



Webinar - Managing The Sharing Economy - 10/14/20

In this webinar, presented by Daniel Mallinson and Goktug Morcol of Penn State University, you will learn how municipalities are managing the sharing economy, which includes such emerging services as ride sharing, bike sharing, and short-term rentals. Township officials will also be encouraged to share how their communities are addressing such platforms as Uber, Lyft, and Airbnb. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Planning/Zoning Point. [Click here](#) to register.

Flagger Training - 10/21/20 - Pike County

This instructor-led Flagger Training will be conducted for individuals who have flagging responsibilities on ANY ROAD OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. Others who would benefit from this course include: utility companies working on low volume roads, law enforcement personnel, municipal managers and elected officials (to understand the importance, and for budgeting purposes). This class is eligible for 2 PMGA Public Works points. [Click here](#) to register.

2020 Virtual Fall Solicitors Seminar - 10/21/20

In the Solicitors (Virtual) Fall Seminar, learn from experts on a wide variety of topics from the comfort of your office or home. Among the topics to be overed include medical marijuana use in townships, flexible zoning, subdivision and land development solutions, use of force and government oversight of police operations, lessons learned during COVID-19 and a recent case update. Eligible for 5 CLE credits and/or 5 Administrative PMGA points. [Click here](#) to register.

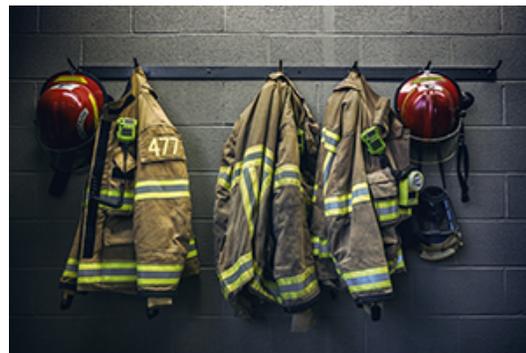


[Webinar - Police Reform Efforts Under Pennsylvania And Federal Law In Post-George Floyd Era - 10/21/20](#)

In this webinar, Andrew Rongaus of Siana Law will review police reform legislation that has recently been enacted at the state and federal level in the wake of well-publicized police incidents this year. Among those to be covered include the Presidential Executive Order on Safe Policing for Safe Communities, Act 57 of 2020, which addresses police hiring and background checks, and Act 59 of 2020, which covers police mental health evaluations for PTSD. This should be a must-attend webinar for any townships with police departments to ensure that their policies and procedures reflect these new requirements. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Administration Point. Eligible for 1 CLE Credit. [Click here](#) to register.

[Building And Maintaining Effective Relationships With Volunteer Fire Companies - Virtual - 10/21/20](#)

Too often, the only communication between the volunteer fire company and a township occurs either at budget time or when a crisis hits. Yet, positive relationships between fire companies and public officials are essential to providing the best possible service to a community. This virtual session will identify why unclear expectations between public officials and fire company leaders can lead to problems and how solutions may be easier than expected. As they say, it's all about relationships. Eligible for 2 PMGA Public Safety points. [Click here](#) to register.



2020 PAAZO Virtual Fall Seminar -11/4/20

In this PAAZO Virtual Fall Seminar, learn from experts on a wide variety of topics from the comfort of your office or home. Among the topics to be covered include agritainment, zoning enforcement, and a recent case update. You will also have an opportunity to interact and network with colleagues around the region. A more complete agenda will be posted once it is finalized. Eligible for 5 PMGA Planning/Zoning points. Eligible for 5 CZO continuing education points. [Click here](#) to register.

Webinar - A Primer On Municipal Water Well Ordinances - 11/4/20

Pennsylvania is one of two remaining states without water well construction standards for privately owned drinking supplies. PA DEP only has authority to regulate public water wells. As a result, the property owner takes on full responsibility for something they aren't experienced with and have little resources to draw upon. Some municipalities have taken it upon themselves to implement an ordinance to remedy this situation. This presentation will discuss the purpose, application, standards and reporting to the elements of a water well ordinance. Some fundamentals of well construction in addition to the geology of groundwater will be included. Perhaps it's time to consider implementing something for your township. This presentation will be given by an experienced licensed professional geologist who has intimate knowledge of groundwater and well construction techniques. Qualifies for 1.0 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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