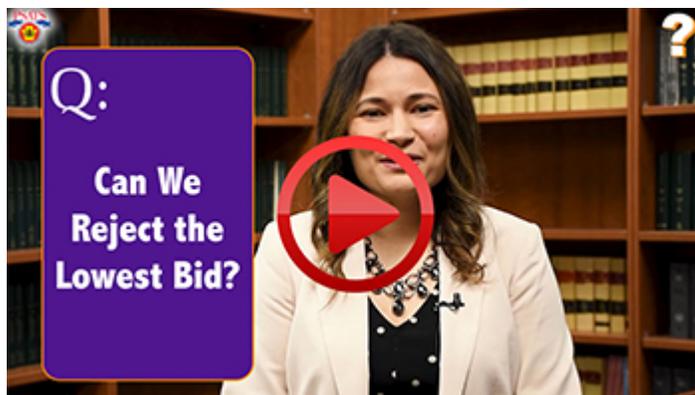


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April 15, 2021

Township Video News



TVN's Question of the Week | Can We Reject the Lowest Bid?

You've received a handful of bids for a road project but have concerns about the vendor submitting the lowest one. What do you do now? Also, [click here](#) to catch up on previous Questions of the Week. (1:26)

Latest News

\$1 Billion in Federal Funds Available for Infrastructure Projects

Unrelated to any possible new infrastructure funding being discussed in Washington, The U.S. Department of Transportation is accepting applications for \$1 billion in current discretionary grant funding for infrastructure projects that benefit communities both large and small. Local governments may apply for these grants on their own or jointly. Funding for this highly competitive program is through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grants. **Applications are due July 12, 2021**, and must be submitted through grants.gov. If your township is not yet registered for grants.gov, note that it can take several weeks to complete registration.

Projects will be evaluated based on safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, economic competitiveness, state of good repair, innovation, and partnership. The maximum grant is \$25 million. Funds will be equitably distributed to urban and rural areas. Up to 3% (30 million) will be for planning grants while at least 1% (10 million) will be targeted to Areas of Persistent Poverty.

The department is hosting a series of webinars about the grant application process. To learn more about this opportunity, [click here](#). For guidance and the application process, choose "RAISE 2021" on the menu on the left side.

Treasury Establishes New Office to Oversee Stimulus Funds

The U.S. Department of the Treasury has established a new Office of Recovery Programs to oversee the implementation of economic stimulus funds, including the American Rescue Plan. The office will be led by a chief recovery officer, who will focus on efficiently establishing and administering these programs. The new officer will be Jacob Leibenluft, who will work closely with Gene Sperling, the White House American Rescue Plan coordinator and senior advisor to President Joe Biden. [Click here](#) for more.

Courts Notify Public of Scam

The Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) is advising the public to stay vigilant against a recently reported phone scam. The scam involves calls that mimic the AOPC's telephone number, and those targeted are told of alleged unpaid court fines and outstanding fees. The caller threatens to place the individual on the Pennsylvania sex offender registry for failing to pay the alleged fees.

The AOPC never solicits payment by credit card, gift card, or any other means of electronic funds transfer. Should you receive such a call, do not provide any information, hang up immediately, and contact state and/or local police, as well as the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General, Bureau of Consumer Protection, at (800) 441-2555 or scams@attorneygeneral.gov.

Commonwealth COVID-19 Enforcement Visits

The following state agency reports are for the week of April 5. Note that less

restrictive orders for restaurants and other establishments took effect April 4.

The Pennsylvania State Police are no longer issuing press releases or a report on their enforcement efforts related to COVID-19 orders.

[Pa. Department of Agriculture](#): The Bureau of Food Safety performed 679 total inspections, six of which were the result of COVID-19-related complaints. The bureau received 14 food facility COVID-19-related complaints, four of which were referred to local and county health departments. No restaurants were closed this week.

[Pa. Department of State](#): The Bureau of Enforcement and Investigation performed 459 inspections of licensed professions' compliance with COVID-19 mitigation requirements, opened 13 COVID-19-specific investigations, and distributed 11 warning letters and one compliance letter.

National Take a Wild Guess Day

With today being the day President Lincoln died from an assassin's bullet, the Titanic sunk, and taxes are normally due, let's take a lighter look!

Is it a calculated risk to celebrate National Take A Wild Guess Day each year on April 15th? It might depend upon how you observe the day. Will you guess how many jellybeans are in a jar? Will my vaccine shot protect me? Will the shutdown be extended again? The day could be full of hunches and guesses depending on how you spend it.

As a contestant in the game of life, sometimes our only option is to venture a guess at what's around the corner. Our inklings or premonitions may never come to be. However, if the future keeps you awake at night worrying, it's a good bet that worrying never paid a bill. Another good wager about worrying is that it costs you more in time and the space in your head than it will ever give back to you. But that's just another estimate.

The day challenges us to take a stab at making wild predictions. They may be way off or right on target. Sometimes we get better at guessing as we go, or we have a knack for it right away. No matter the case, it's just a wild guess. Don't take it too seriously!

Learn

[2021 Engineers Virtual Spring Seminar - 4/19 & 4/20/2021](#)

The 2021 Spring Township Engineer's Seminar is a 2-day on-line event held this year from 8:30 -11:30 a.m. the mornings of Monday, April 19 and Tuesday, April 20, 2021. [Click here](#) for agenda and to register.



Flagger Training

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). Click on the below location for more information and to register.



[Flagger Training - 4/23/21 - Cumberland County](#)

[Flagger Training - 4/27/21 - Luzerne County](#)

[Flagger Training - 4/28/21 – Crawford County](#)

[Flagger Training - 4/28/21 – York County](#)

Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

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