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May 11, 2021

Township Video News



TVN's Coffee & the Capitol | Rep. Jerry Knowles: Local Government Matters

Rep. Jerry Knowles is no stranger to public service or local government. The seven-term lawmaker has been a police officer, a volunteer firefighter, a mayor, and a county commissioner. And now, as the new chair of the House Local Government Committee, he's taking on one of his most important assignments. (7:57)

Latest News

Treasury Releases Regulations for Federal Funding for Townships

The U.S. Treasury released an Interim Final Rule for the American Rescue Plan funding that all townships will receive in June. The 151-page regulation provides additional guidance about eligible uses and information about reporting. [Click here](#) for the press release. [Click here](#) for a fact sheet.

PSATS staff and Premier Partner Zelenkofske Axelrod are currently analyzing the rule in preparation for the Virtual Town Hall this **Friday, May 14, at 10:30 a.m.** In the initial review, there is significant new information about the allowable uses, including calculations for lost revenue, restrictions on premium pay, and clarification that water, sewer, and broadband does include stormwater and more, and details on allowable uses for responding to the pandemic and offsetting its negative economic impacts.

“The American Rescue Plan Act Funding Update” will discuss the ins and outs of the rule. Nobody wants to get this wrong so join us for proper guidance on what is okay and how your expenditures need to be calculated. [Click here](#) to register!

Reminder: We Need Your Legal Advertising Stories!

PSATS will be testifying in support of [HB 955](#), which would give municipalities the option of placing public notices on their own website or that of a newspaper and expand printed publication options, in addition to a newspaper of general circulation. PSATS supports this bill, which would fulfill a PSATS resolution.

As we prepare for the hearing, we need your help! If your township would use one of these options for public notices, how would it make it easier for your residents to find important township notices? Is a newspaper readily available in your township, and if so, do residents subscribe? What are the challenges of publishing a legal notice? How much would your township save by using a website or other types of printed publications to provide notices? Send your input and stories about why your township would like an electronic or other legal advertising option to grassroots@psats.org by **Wednesday, May 19**. Any documentation of expenses or the advertising process is much appreciated! And thank you to those who have responded already!

FDA Approves Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine for Teens

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has expanded the emergency use authorization of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to authorize its use in adolescents 12 to 15 years of age. Phase 3 trials demonstrated 100% efficacy and robust antibody response after vaccination. [Click here](#) for more.

Conference Virtual Workshops Week 3

Can't get enough of PSATS Virtual Conference Workshop series? Here's what is on tap for week 3! To view the full list of workshops and to register, go to <https://learn.psats.org/virtual-conference>.

2021 Educational Conference

Virtual Conference Workshops
May 10-14, 2021

May 10, 2021:

- You Just Received a Sewage Facilities Planning Module. Now What? @ 1:30 p.m.
- Department of Agriculture Partnerships with Local Government @ 3 p.m.

May 11, 2021:

- Dealing With Constantly Changing Public Safety Challenges @ 9:30 a.m.
- Grid Scale Solar Developments in Your Community @ 11 a.m.
- Claims of Racism at Your Doorstep: What is a Township to Do? @ 1:30 p.m.
- Squeezing the Most Out of Every Dollar @ 3 p.m.

May 12, 2021:

- Full Depth Reclamation to Upgrade Distressed Roads @ 9 a.m.
- Strategies for Community Revitalization @ 10:30 a.m.
- Building and Rebuilding - Public Trust in Local Government @ 3 p.m.

May 13, 2021:

- Municipal Bidding @ 9:30 a.m.
- Landslides, Rock Falls, Sinkholes, Mine Subsidence: Minimizing Geohazards @ 11 a.m.
- Understanding Real Estate Tax Collection @ 1:30 p.m.

May 14, 2021:

- That Day You DIDNT Make National Headlines! Creating Effective Police Policies @ 1 p.m.

To register for these workshops go to learn.psats.org/virtual-conference

On This Day in History.....

On May 11, 1888, Irving Berlin was born Israel Baline in Temun, Siberia. The famous composer and lyricist immigrated to the United States in 1893 with his family 19 months after Ellis Island opened. The family had fled Siberia to escape Russia's persecution of the Jews. Some of his most well-known songs include, "God Bless America" and "White Christmas."

Legislation & Policy



The Senate will be in session today, May 11. Watch session live [here](#).

PSATS to Testify before Senate Committees on Energy Choice Legislation

PSATS will testify before the committees on SB 275, which preempts municipalities from adopting any policy that would restrict utility connections or services in Pennsylvania based upon the source of

energy.

[Click here](#) to watch the hearing

Learn

PSATS educational events will be listed as follows: Mondays – All webinars; Tuesdays – Administrative; Wednesdays – Planning/Zoning; Thursdays – Public Works; Fridays – Public Safety. Click on the title of the class for more information and to register.

[Claims of Racism at Your Doorstep: What is a Township to Do? - Virtual - 5/11/21](#)

Attend this session to learn how to take a proactive response to allegations of racism, including what to do before and after a claim is made and how to prepare for the future.



[Squeezing the Most Out of Every Dollar - Virtual - 5/11/21](#)

This session will review current market conditions and provide tips on optimizing investments while effectively managing your township's cash flow.



[Building and Rebuilding - Public Trust in Local Government - Virtual - 5/12/21](#)

This session will focus on the decline of public trust in government and offer strategies that local leaders can use to build - and rebuild - it with the public.



[Understanding Real Estate Tax Collection - Virtual - 5/13/21](#)

This workshop will educate township supervisors, administrators, tax collectors, tax collector candidates and others about the collection of local real estate taxes.



[Assessing Your Township's Cyber Security Readiness - Virtual - 5/18/21](#)

Townships have an absolute need to conduct periodic and comprehensive assessments of the security readiness of their information systems.



Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

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