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May 27, 2021

Township Video News



TVN's Question of the Week | Options for Selling Used Equipment?

If your township has used equipment to sell, we walk you through the steps you can take. Also, [click here](#) to catch up on previous Questions of the Week. (1:49)

Latest News

DCED Expected to Be Designated Lead Agency for ARP Funds

The state Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) is expected to be designated as the lead commonwealth agency for managing American Rescue Plan (ARP) payments to non-entitlement communities (*municipalities with populations of less than 50,000*). The economic development team that managed the CARES Act funding to counties last year is expected to be the municipal funds filing office for Recovery dollars. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.

Reminder: Pennsylvania's COVID-19 Mitigation Orders to Be Lifted May 31

All COVID mitigation orders except for the masking order are scheduled to be lifted on Monday, May 31. However, the revised orders have not yet been released. The masking order will be lifted when 70% of eligible Pennsylvania adults are fully vaccinated. [Click here](#) for the May 4 press release.

When the mitigation orders are lifted, the state Department of Health recommends that Pennsylvanians continue to refer to [Centers for Disease Control guidance](#) and recommendations for ongoing COVID-19 safety measures and procedures. As an aside, municipalities and school districts will have the option to continue stricter mitigation efforts for municipal property and their communities if they choose to do so.

Restrictions that will end on May 31 include those on employers, businesses, and restaurants and include limits on social distancing, gatherings, facility capacity, restaurant dining capacity, and all remaining employee mitigation requirements. To date, the orders have not yet been amended.

The governor's [Proclamation of Disaster Emergency for the COVID-19 pandemic](#) is expected to remain in place while a resolution to revise or repeal certain portions of the proclamation is under discussion in the legislature.

PUC Issues Cybersecurity Advisory

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) has issued a cybersecurity advisory to public utilities across Pennsylvania highlighting cybersecurity best practices. All townships may use these federal resources to help decrease their risk for cyberattacks by ransomware and know what to do if they experience an attack. [Click here](#) to access these resources.

IFO Releases Revenue Estimates for 2021-2022

The Independent Fiscal Office (IFO) has released its initial revenue estimate for the commonwealth's fiscal year 2021-2022. The report examines the impact of federal funds, possible labor shortages, and expiring programs on growth. [Click here](#) for more.

On This Day in History.....

Julia Ward Howe was born on May 27, 1819. The American author and poet is best known for writing the “Battle Hymn of the Republic” and for inspiring the movement toward a national [Mother’s Day](#) observance.

Have a Happy Memorial Day Weekend! Look for PSATS’ Morning News to return on Tuesday, June 1.

Legislation & Policy



PSATS Testifies on Legal Advertising Legislation

Yesterday, PSATS Director of Government Relation Joe Gerdes testified before the House Local Government Committee on HB 955 which would provide townships with options for advertising required public notices. Specifically, Gerdes explained that PSATS policy supports any proposal for legal advertising that would improve access to legal notices, AND at a reduced cost to local governments. This includes advertising on local government websites and in community papers of mass dissemination, while providing townships with the flexibility to determine which options will best provide information to their residents, businesses, and potential vendors.

[Click here](#) to read the full testimony.

Senate Passes Regulation Review Bill

Yesterday, the Senate passed SB 126 which would require regulations with an economic impact to the Commonwealth, its political subdivisions, or to the private sector exceeding \$1 million annually be reviewed for their need, effectiveness and efficiency three years after implementation. SB 126 is now awaiting committee assignment in the House.

House Passes Open Space Legislation

Yesterday, the House unanimously passed **HB 221** which would amend the Local Tax Enabling Act (*Act 511 of 1965*) to authorize local governments to use up to 25 % of revenue from the open space tax for maintenance and development regardless of the method of acquisition or purchase. HB 221 is now awaiting committee assignment in the Senate.

House Passes Government Study Commission Bill

Yesterday, the House unanimously passed **HB 1213** which would authorize the council of a distressed municipality to vote to organize a government study commission if the recovery plan adopted by the distressed municipality recommends adoption of a home rule charter or amendment of an existing home rule charter.

House Approves Subdivision and Land Development Bill

Yesterday, the House passed **HB 141** which would mandate that all subdivision and land development ordinances contain a non-building waiver provision. This legislation would enable a property owner to create a nonbuilding lot which would be exempt from the normal subdivision process until the applicant was ready to develop the property. HB 141 is now awaiting committee assignment in the Senate. PSATS is opposed to HB 141 as currently written and will continue to work with members of the General Assembly on this proposal.

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.

[Work Zone Safety Updates from PennDOT - Virtual - 5/27/21](#)

Attend this workshop for the latest information on work zone safety. PennDOT staff will be reviewing updates to policies, training, and guidelines, including Publication 213 (Temporary Traffic Control Guidelines) and Publication 234 (Flagger Handbook).



[Coordinating Utility Relocations on PennDOT Projects - Virtual - 5/27/21](#)

PennDOT recently launched the Utility Relocation Management System (URMS), which is new software that's designed to better coordinate utility relocations on state projects between utility owners, consultants, and the agency's staff. During this session, PennDOT representatives will explain how to register for URMS and share best practices and benefits.



[CDL - Probable Cause Training for CDL Supervisory Personnel](#)

This workshop addresses these federal requirements by providing supervisory personnel with a working understanding of the federal CDL regulations, including on-the-job probable cause procedures.



[CDL - Probable Cause Training for CDL Supervisory Personnel - 8/11/21 - Crawford County](#)

[CDL - Probable Cause Training for CDL Supervisory Personnel - 8/18/21 - Beaver County](#)

[CDL - Probable Cause Training for CDL Supervisory Personnel - 8/19/21 - Fayette County](#)

[CMV/CDL Records Management](#)

This workshop will review CMV/CDL employee and vehicle paperwork, including pre-employment inquiries regarding a CDL applicant's past drug and alcohol test results and driving safety reports; requests for CMV driver's license information; annually reviewing each CMV driver's qualification to continue driving; CMV daily vehicle inspection, maintenance, and repair reports; the employer's required policy on CDL drug and alcohol testing; and a general overview of all the CDL regulations.



[CMV/CDL Records Management - 8/11/21 - Crawford County](#)

[CMV/CDL Records Management - 8/18/21 - Beaver County](#)

[CMV/CDL Records Management - 8/19/21 - Fayette County](#)

2021 Engineers Fall Seminar

This full-day seminar is designed to meet the educational interests and busy schedules of consulting engineers by providing a focused overview of important issues of interest to municipal engineers and their local government clients.



[2021 Engineers Fall Seminar - 9/28/21 - East](#)

[2021 Engineers Fall Seminar - 10/14/21 - Central](#)

[2021 Engineers Fall Seminar - 10/21/21 - Southeast](#)

Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

David M. Sanko, Executive Director

4855 Woodland Drive
Enola, PA 17025