

A NEWSLETTER
CONTAINING
THE LATEST
INFORMATION
ON LEGISLATION
AND NEWS OF
INTEREST TO
TOWNSHIPS

**ALL municipalities
are now required
to register with
SAM.gov for the
American Rescue
Plan funds.**

Townships Must Apply for Federal Funds By June 30

In order to receive your township's American Rescue Plan funds, ALL townships with populations of *less than* 50,000 must apply with the state Department of Community and Economic Development using the Single Application website as soon as possible and no later than the end of June. **According to DCED, the possibility exists that failure to file by June 30 could result in forfeiture of your allocation.** Townships over 50,000 must apply directly to U.S. Treasury.

DCED's Governor's Center for Local Government Services is the lead commonwealth agency for managing American Rescue Plan payments to non-entitlement communities (*municipalities with populations of less than 50,000*). **For questions about the application process call the Center at 888-223-6837 or email covidarpa@pa.gov. If you need assistance with your application, call DCED Customer Service at 1-800-379-7448.**

Clarification on SAM number: Contrary to earlier guidance, **ALL municipalities**, even those with populations of less than 50,000 (*non-entitlement communities*) **are now federally required to register with SAM.gov number** for their ARP grant reports. For best results, be certain that the information you enter on SAM.gov matches that on file with your DUNS registration and be sure to update your DUNS information if necessary (*go to fedgov.dnb.com or call 1-866-705-5711.*)

If your township is in the process of registering for or updating your township's SAM.gov registration, **include the email application confirmation from SAM as part of your DCED application** to show that your township has started the SAM process. This will allow you to timely complete and submit the DCED application.

Townships that apply can expect to receive the first distribution of funds in July. DCED recommends using 352.53 or 352.530, Federal Entitlements to Governmental Units, from the Chart of Accounts for this new revenue source.

PSATS has detailed information on how to apply for your funds on psats.org, on the COVID-19 Info page. This includes links to the Keystone Login for the DCED application, detailed instructions for the DCED application, SAM.gov registration, and a Town Hall presentation on the application process. Note that you do NOT need to list how you plan to use the funds on your application.

Meetings and the Emergency Declaration

Gov. Tom Wolf's COVID-19 emergency disaster declaration officially ended with the adoption of [HR 106](#) and certification of the ballot questions that amended the Pennsylvania Constitution. The disaster declaration ending triggered the expiration of parts of Act 15 of 2020, which means **fully** virtual meetings are no longer permitted by that law.

[Act 15 of 2020](#) allowed all local government types to conduct fully virtual or teleconference meetings while the governor's emergency disaster declaration was in effect. Since the disaster declaration has been terminated, townships of the second class should go back to pre-declaration conditions and conduct in-person or hybrid meetings. Hybrid meetings must have a physical meeting location where the public may attend in-person, as well as a virtual option, and supervisors may participate in-person or virtually. While some



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Registration for
PSATS Centennial
Celebration Dinner
and 2021 Annual
Business Meeting
will open
August 2.

other local government codes have specific requirements for an in-person quorum, the Second Class Township Code does not have any such provisions. The Sunshine Law does require a physical meeting location for the public to participate.

In addition, [Act 21 of 2021](#) extends, through September 30, 2021, the suspension of many regulatory statutes and orders, rules, or regulations put in place as part of the governor's COVID-19 disaster declaration. As Act 15 of 2020 was an act of the legislature, not an order of the governor, it was not extended by Act 21 of 2021.

Mark Your Calendars for October 14 and 15!

Join PSATS for two major events scheduled for this fall in Hershey! Registration information is on the way for our **Centennial Celebration Dinner**, followed by **PSATS 2021 Annual Business Meeting**, to be held **October 14 and 15**, respectively.

While pandemic restrictions forced the cancellation of PSATS' 2021 Annual Educational Conference, these events are **scheduled for the Hershey Lodge** to make up for the canceled 100th celebration and to take care of Association business.

Business Meeting: On **Friday, October 15**, voting delegates will conduct **PSATS' 2021 Annual Business Meeting**, hear committee reports, elect PSATS leadership, and most importantly, adopt resolutions that will guide state association policy in Harrisburg and Washington, D.C. All are welcome with priority registration going to voting delegates.

Centennial Celebration Dinner: On **Thursday, October 14**, the Pennsylvania Leadership Institute will host a **Centennial Celebration of PSATS' First 100 Years**. This fun-filled historic evening, complete with dinner and light entertainment, is not to be missed!

Registration Opens August 2: Registration for the Business Meeting and Centennial Dinner will open on Monday, August 2. Look for registration materials with detailed instructions in your mailbox soon!

Appointing Your Voting Delegates: When registering for Business Meeting, you will need to note who your voting delegate is because no records were "rolled over" from the spring conference registration. Technically, it is the same event and does not require a public action unless you are changing your township's original designation. If making a change, be sure to decide at your next scheduled meeting so you are ready when registration opens.

We look forward to seeing you in Hershey October 14 & 15!

Capitol Roundup

PSATS Testifies at Legislative Hearings — PSATS recently testified before several legislative committees on behalf of PSATS and its members. Here is a summary:

PSATS Director of Government Relations Joe Gerdes testified before the **House Local Government Committee on the need for legal advertising reform** and in support of **HB 955**, which would give townships several new options for advertising public notices.

PSATS Executive Board Member Samuel Cressler, a township supervisor for Southampton Township, Franklin County, testified before the **Senate Agricultural & Rural Affairs and Local Government Committees on commercial solar farms**.

PSATS participated in a joint testimony with the other local government associations before the **Senate Democratic Policy Committee** in opposition to **SB 310**, which would **create an unfunded mandate through a statewide Occupational Safety and Health Act**.

To read the testimonies, go to psats.org and choose "Legislation & Policy" and then

**SB 769 and
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“Legislative Testimony.”

Municipal Indemnification Bill Before Governor — HB 765 which would prohibit the state Department of Transportation from requiring municipal indemnification for third party special event permits, has passed both chambers of the General Assembly and was presented to the governor, who must act before July 2.

5G Legislation Moves Forward — SB 769 and HB 1621 have both passed their respective chambers. Both bills would **provide for the regulation of small wireless facilities in municipal rights-of-way.** This legislation would authorize municipalities to charge an annual fee for the use of the right-of-way, would set the maximum permitted height of the pole and small cell facility at 50-feet, would require small cells to comply with restrictions in place in underground utility districts, and would allow municipalities to develop reasonable design guidelines to minimize aesthetic impact.

As currently written, both bills would only apply to small cell wireless facilities and poles within the right-of-way; zoning and other local ordinances are preserved. This legislation provides municipalities with the maximum allowable authority and control within the confines of the FCC order.

Agenda Legislation Passes Senate — SB 554 would amend the Sunshine Act to require local governments to post a meeting agenda with all voting items at least 24 hours before a meeting on a website, if it has one, or at its building and meeting place. A local government could add unadvertised items to the agenda by majority vote. SB 554 passed the Senate unanimously and the House State Government Committee and is now before the House.

PSATS to PennDOT: You Forgot Locals! — PSATS recently submitted comments to the state Department of Transportation on its revised Pathways program raising concerns that the program does not recognize the partnership with local government or local transportation needs. Pathways contains ideas for filling the \$8.1 billion annual highway and bridge transportation funding gap.

To learn more about Pathways, go to penndot.gov and choose “Funding.” To view PSATS’ comments, go to psats.org, choose “Legislative and Policy,” and “Letters to Agencies.”

Legislation Moves Forward — These bills of interest to townships have seen recent action in the General Assembly:

SB 126 would require that **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 478 and **HB 1170** would allow a municipality to enter a contract for services when it advertises a bid for services but **no bids are received.**

SB 673 and **HB 1351** would amend the Second Class Township Code to **prohibit the surcharge** of an elected or appointed official by a township auditor when the official acted in good faith based on a written, nonconfidential opinion of the township’s solicitor or an opinion of the township’s solicitor given at a public meeting. The bills would authorize, in addition to the appointment of an individual, the **appointment of a partnership, limited partnership, association, or professional corporation as the township’s manager.**

HB 1546 would prohibit the **public posting of the home address or telephone number of a public safety official** or their spouse or child and providing this information to a third party.

To view legislation, go to www.legis.state.pa.us.

Don't Miss PSATS' Regional Forums

PSATS live is back! Don't miss PSATS' Regional Forums, scheduled for seven locations statewide July through November. In person, learn about issues that matter to your community, discuss common interests with other local leaders, and earn PMGA and other professional credits! See below for dates and locations:

- **July 20** — Northwest at Sheraton Erie Bayfront, Erie
- **July 28** — Lehigh Valley at Center 100 Hotel, Breinigsville
- **August 5** — Northcentral at Holiday Inn Williamsport, Williamsport
- **August 17** — Southcentral at Holiday Inn Harrisburg-Hershey, Grantville
- **August 24** — Southwest at Hilton Garden Inn Pittsburgh/Southpointe, Canonsburg
- **October 27** — Southeast at Hilton Garden Inn Exton/West Chester, Exton
- **November 10** — Northeast at Mohegan Sun Pocono, Wilkes-Barre

For more information, go to regionalforum.psats.org!

This and That...

Be sure to check this section each month, where you will find important reminders and information.

- **PUC Releases 2020 Impact Fee Distributions** — The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission has announced that it collected \$146 million in natural gas impact fees for calendar year 2020, which will be distributed in early July. The total collected is down about 27 percent from last year's \$200 million. Counties and municipalities directly affected by drilling will receive \$71.5 million of these funds. To find your township's distribution, go to puc.pa.gov, choose "Act 13 Impact Fee Distributions at the top of the page," then choose "Reports," then "County and Municipality Disbursement," and then "2020" from the drop-down menu.
- **PennDOT Accepting Applications for ARLE Grants** — The state Department of Transportation is accepting applications for the 2021 Automated Red Light Enforcement Funding Program (ARLE). Townships may apply, and **applications are due July 1, 2021**. Grants may be used for a range of safety and mobility projects and will prioritize safety enhancements. To learn, go to www.dot.state.pa.us/signals.
- **Grants Available for Community Green Space, Parks** — Keep PA Beautiful is accepting applications for the Healing the Planet Grant Program funded by The GIANT Company. Applications for \$2,500 to \$25,000 will be **accepted until June 30**. Townships in listed counties in the central and eastern parts of the commonwealth may apply. Eligible projects could include park improvements, watershed restoration, beautification and greening, tree plantings, and vacant lot restoration. To learn more or to apply, go to keepapabeautiful.org.
- **Federal Crime Reduction Grants Available** — The U.S. Department of Justice is accepting grant applications **until July 20** for the Rural Violent Crime Reduction Initiative for Law Enforcement Agencies. Rural townships with a local police department and a population of less than 15,000 are eligible to apply. The maximum grant award is \$150,000.
The grants will support improved training and technology, expanded community-based crime prevention programs, and partnerships with victim services providers. This initiative is intended to improve communication and collaboration between state and local law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve. To learn more, go to bja.ojp.gov and choose "Funding & Awards."
- **Federal Broadband Grants Available** — The U.S. Department of Commerce has \$288 million available in grant funding for the deployment of broadband infrastructure. Grants will be awarded to partnerships between a state or local government and a provider of fixed broadband services. **Applications are due August 17**. Projects should be designed to provide broadband service to rural areas and to the greatest number of households in an eligible service area, be the most cost-effective in providing broadband services, and provide a download speed of 100 Mbps and an upload speed of 20 Mbps. To learn more, go to grants.gov and search for Broadband.