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June 15, 2021

Township Video News



TVN's DaveTalk | "The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step."
PSATS Executive Director Dave Sanko asks you to think about newcomers to township office later this year and how you can help them start their journey off on the right foot. Learn more about PSATS' Boot Camp coming this fall and running through the winter months. (2:43)

Latest News

PSATS Executive Director Releases Op-ed on Need for Legal Advertising Reform

PSATS Executive Director Dave Sanko released a statewide op-ed giving voice to member concerns about the need for legal advertising reform. As a result of declining circulation, newspaper advertisements are no longer the most effective way to provide public notice to residents. The time and expense required could be better spent on more timely methods that taxpayers have a better chance of seeing. HB 955 would give local governments in Pennsylvania the freedom and option to place notices in more places and with greater access to their constituents, thus enhancing transparency and information sharing. To read the op-ed, [click here](#).

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. Counties and municipalities directly affected by drilling will receive \$71.5 million of these funds. To find your township's distribution, [click here](#) and choose "Reports," then "County and Municipality Disbursement," and then "2020" from the drop-down menu.

The total collected is down about 27 percent from last year's \$200 million. The PUC noted that the reduction was primarily due to a lower price of natural gas in 2020 than in 2019 and, in part, because of the pandemic, the fewest number of new wells drilled than in any year since the passage of Act 13. [Click here](#) for the press release.

Reminder: PennDOT Accepting Applications for ARLE Grants until July 1

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 through this program may be used for a range of safety and mobility projects. The program will prioritize safety enhancements considering PennDOT's safety network screening methods for the project location and crash modification factors associated with proposed improvements. To learn more about this grant opportunity, [click here](#).

This Day in History.....

One June 15, 2012, the first successful tightrope walk directly over Niagara Falls was completed. American Nikolas Wallenda completed the feat, adding it to his growing list of acrobatic and aerial feats.

Legislation & Policy



The House and Senate will be in session today, June 15. Watch session live [here](#).

House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee News

Yesterday, the House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee approved HB 1445 and HB 1546.

HB 1445 would amend the Fiscal Code to direct the transfer of \$5.5 million from the money received by the commonwealth from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to the Emergency Medical Services Operating Fund.

HB 1546 would amend Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes by establishing that no person shall publicly post, display or provide to a third party the home address or telephone number of any public safety official or their spouse or child knowing the person is a public safety official.

HB 1445 and HB 1546 are now before the House.

Senate Passes Home Rule Legislation

Yesterday, the Senate passed SB 524 which would prohibit the filing of an ordinance or petition pursuant to the Home Rule Law for four years following an election in which any of the three Home Rule questions appeared on the ballot and were defeated. SB 524 is now awaiting committee assignment in the House.

Senate Passes Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Legislation

SB 119 would prohibit the state Department of Environmental Protection from adopting a measure or taking any other action that is designed to abate, control or limit carbon dioxide emissions, including an action to join or participate in a state or regional greenhouse gas cap-and-trade program, including the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). SB 119 would also prohibit the department from establishing a greenhouse gas cap-and-trade program unless authorized by the General Assembly. SB 119 is now awaiting committee assignment in the House.

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.

[PSATS Regional Forums](#)

“PSATS Live” is back, and we’re going on the road again with our ever-popular Regional Forums at a location near you starting in July in Erie and running through November in Wilkes-Barre. We have all-new content and a one-day-only format now. Be sure to sign up for the one closest to you!



PSATS Northwest 2021 Regional Forum - 7/20/21 - Erie

PSATS Lehigh Valley 2021 Regional Forum - 7/28/21 - Breinigsville

PSATS Northcentral 2021 Regional Forum - 8/5/21 - Williamsport

PSATS Southcentral 2021 Regional Forum - 8/17/21 - Grantville

PSATS Southwest 2021 Regional Forum - 8/24/21 - Canonsburg

PSATS Southeast 2021 Regional Forum - 10/27/21 - Exton

PSATS Northeast 2021 Regional Forum - 11/10/21 - Wilkes-Barre

[2021 PSATS HR & Labor Management Institute - 9/23-24/21](#)

This day and a half class is a must-attend for anyone who has responsibility for HR and personnel management in their township.



2021 Solicitors Fall Seminar

In the Solicitors Fall Seminar learn from experts on a wide variety of topics critical to the practice of a municipal solicitor.

[2021 Solicitors Fall Seminar - 9/28/21 - West](#)

[2021 Solicitors Fall Seminar - 10/7/21 - Central](#)

[2021 Solicitors Fall Seminar - 11/4/21 - East](#)



Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

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