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June 24, 2021

Township Video News



TVN's Question of the Week | How Do We Break a Tie on Two Identical Sealed Bids?

Breaking a tie when your township gets identical bids is as simple as flipping a coin or drawing straws. Also, [click here](#) to catch up on previous Questions of the Week. (1:13)

Latest News

Watch for Your Postal Delivery

This afternoon we will mail the information packets for the Fall PSATS Annual Business meeting on Friday, October 15, how to name voting delegates, when registration opens, and more! The package will also include important information about the PSATS Centennial Celebration sponsored by the PA Leadership Institute on Thursday evening, October 14.

Treasury Updates ARP FAQs

Yesterday, the U.S. Treasury Department updated its [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQs) document on the American Rescue Plan funds. Newly added questions are clearly marked and include answers about allowable expenditures for parks and police.

In addition, Treasury updated its [FAQ document on the Distribution of Funds to Non-Entitlement Units](#) to add a question about the deadline for states to distribute these funds.

Reminder: \$1 Billion in Federal Funds Available for Infrastructure Projects

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. To learn more about this opportunity, [click here](#). For guidance and the application process, choose "RAISE 2021" on the menu on the left side.

This Day in History.....

On June 24, 1947, while flying near Mt. Rainer, pilot Kenneth Arnold witnessed what is considered the first widely reported sighting of an unidentified flying object – UFO. Fifty years later, On June 24, 1997, U.S. Air Force officials release a 231-page report dismissing long-standing claims of an alien spacecraft crash in Roswell, New Mexico And now today, we are on the brink of the US government releasing new information confirming the existence of UFOs. Interesting times.....

Legislation & Policy



The House and Senate will be in session today, June 24 Watch session live [here](#).

House Passes Bill Banning Vaccination Passports

Yesterday, the House passed SB 618 which would prohibit the state, counties, municipalities, school districts, and colleges that are subsidized by state taxpayers from requiring proof of vaccination against COVID-19. SB 618 is now before the Senate on concurrence of House amendments.

Microenterprise Loan Legislation Passes Senate

Yesterday, the Senate unanimously passed HB 827 which would give municipalities the option to create a microenterprise loan program and allow for tax abatement for blighted properties. HB 827 is now before the House on concurrence of Senate amendments.

Senate Approves Voter Identification Proposal

Yesterday, the Senate passed SB 275 which proposes an amendment to the Pennsylvania Constitution which would require all electors to provide identification before receiving a ballot to vote in person or to include a copy of identification with their absentee or mail-in ballot. SB 275 is now awaiting committee assignment in the House.

Note: All amendments to the Pennsylvania Constitution must be approved by the General Assembly during two consecutive legislative sessions and then approved by the voters statewide.

Senate Communications & Technology Committee Approves 5G Legislation

Yesterday, the Senate Communication & Technology Committee approved HB 1621 which would provide for the regulation of small wireless facilities in municipal rights-of-way. This bill would also authorize municipalities to charge an annual fee for the use of the right-of-way, not exceeding \$270 per small wireless facility or \$270 per new utility pole with a small wireless facility and would set the maximum permitted height of the pole and small cell facility at 50-feet. Small cells would be required to comply with restrictions in place in underground utility districts and municipalities would be able to develop reasonable design guidelines to minimize aesthetic impact. Municipalities would have 60 days to review applications for collocation on preexisting structures and 90 days for the installation of a new structure with attached small wireless facilities. HB 1621 is now before the Senate.

Township officials should keep in mind that as currently written 1621 would only apply to small cell wireless facilities and poles within the right-of-way; zoning and other local ordinances are preserved. Additionally, this legislation provides municipalities with the maximum allowable authority and control within the confines of the FCC order.

Senate Local Government Committee Approves Authority Rate Adjustment Legislation

Yesterday, the Senate Local Government Committee approved HB 957 which

would amend the Municipal Authorities Act to allow owners of multiple rental properties served by a single meter to request the authority to adjust the amount billed. An owner requesting an adjustment would be required to show a minimum of five consecutive years of actual usage data showing the amount billed exceeds the actual usage by 30 percent or more. If the usage data shows an adjustment is needed, the authority would be required to adjust the billing and use the adjusted amount going forward. An owner would not be able to request another adjustment for a period of 5 years after a rate adjustment. HB 957 is now before the Senate.

Learn

PSATS educational events will be listed as follows: Mondays – All webinars; Tuesdays – Administrative; Wednesdays – Planning/Zoning; Thursdays – Public Works; Fridays – Public Safety.

Everything you NEED to Know about Pavement Preservation!

This session will explore all of the essentials to ensure that your township's pavement preservation projects are a success. You will learn about proper site selection, site prep, lab testing and choosing the correct aggregate and emulsion.



[Fayette County - 7/13/21](#)
[Cambria County - 7/22/21](#)

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.

[8/11/21 - Crawford County](#)
[8/12/21 - Clearfield County](#)
[8/18/21 - Beaver County](#)
[8/19/21 - Fayette County](#)



[8/25/21 - Blair County](#)
[8/26/21 - Warren County](#)
[9/20/21 - Cumberland County](#)
[9/30/21 - Montgomery County](#)
[10/4/21 - Lycoming 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.



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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.



[9/28/21 - East](#)
[10/14/21 - Central](#)
[10/21/21 - Southeast](#)

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