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July 1, 2021

Township Video News



TVN's Question of the Week | Virtual Meetings: What Now?

Now that the governor's COVID-19 disaster proclamation has ended, what can we do in terms of our regular board of supervisors meetings? Find out where you go from here. Also, [click here](#) to catch up on previous Questions of the Week. (1:52)

Latest News

Can You Believe We Are Halfway Through 2021 Today?

It's a great time to update your records from CRM to Salary Survey Plus. Let us know if you need help....

DCED Confirms Extension for American Rescue Plan Funds as More Than 2,100 File

DCED confirmed that those municipalities with a population of less than 50,000 still have time to apply. While the extended deadline is July 29, PSATS and DCED strongly urge township officials to apply ASAP, and no later than mid-July to ensure that they receive their funds. As many have learned, the SAM.gov process, which is now required of all municipalities, does not always go smoothly and significant delays have occurred due to no fault of the townships. And remember, all federal and state sites are free! PSATS has provided detailed information on how to apply on its COVID-19 page, which is available by [clicking here](#). Municipalities with populations of 50,000 or more must apply directly to the U.S. Treasury for these funds.

The state Department of Community and Economic Development has confirmed that more than 2,100 municipalities with populations of less than 50,000 have already applied for the American Rescue Plan funds. In addition, some townships have already received their funds and those approved can expect to see their funds by mid-July.

SAM.gov reminder: DCED is reminding townships that have applied to provide proof of their SAM registration as soon as it is received. Copies can be emailed to DCED at covidarpa@pa.gov, along with your township, county, and 12-digit confirmation from DCED.

Reminder: Federal Crime Reduction Grant Applications Due July 20

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 address the unique criminal justice challenges in rural areas. [Click here](#) to learn more.

ATV Regional Trail Connector Pilot Opens July 16

The state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has announced that the ATV Regional Connector pilot program in the northcentral region of the state will open on July 16. This pilot provides ATV riders with more than 250 miles of connected trail routes, including 208 miles of township roads that are designated as open to ATVs. Riders will need a pass to access the Connector. DCNR will study

the impact of the project and publish a report. [Click here](#) to learn more.

This Day in History...

One of the largest military conflicts in North American history begins on July 1, 1863, when Union and Confederate forces collide at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The epic battle lasted three days and resulted in a retreat to Virginia by Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia.

Happy American Independence Day!

PSATS Morning News will return Tuesday, July 6, 2021. Enjoy and be safe on the 4th of July!

Legislation & Policy



2021-22 State Budget

As we reported yesterday, Governor Wolf signed the recently passed \$40.8 billion dollar state budget for 2021-2022. The final budget does not include any State Police fees, new taxes, or tax increases. Lawmakers also chose to save \$5 billion in federal funds for future budgets.

Some key provisions of the budget include:

- An increase of \$300 million for basic education, with \$100 million for underfunded school districts and a record high allocation of \$13.55 billion for K-12 education.
- Schools will also receive \$350 million from federal relief dollars for pandemic related disruptions and \$44 million in federal funds are allocated to career and technical schools.
- \$282 million in federal relief funds are allocated to help nursing homes, assisted living, and personal care homes with pandemic related costs.
- An additional \$14.6 million for the Pennsylvania State Police, including the addition of two cadet classes and a \$30 million allocation for violence intervention and prevention.
- \$279 million in federal funds for road and bridge projects to make up for pandemic-related losses in revenue in the Motor License Fund.
- The state Department of Transportation's allocation from the Motor License Fund for traffic signals will be restored to \$40 million.
- \$5 million in federal funds are allocated to the Emergency Medical Services Operating Fund for first responders.
- The state Department of Community & Economic Development received an increase of \$2 million while the Governor's Center for Local Government Services and the Office of

- Open records received level funding.
- \$20 million from federal stimulus funds will go towards broadband deployment in unserved and underserved areas.
- A deposit of \$2.5 billion into the Rainy Day Fund.

The governor also vetoed House Bill 1300, which contained a number of election law reforms and he line item vetoed the parts of Senate Bill 255, the General Appropriation bill, which provided funds for the establishment and operation of the Bureau of Election Audits contained in HB 1300.

In addition to the budget, Governor Wolf also signed the following bills into law yesterday:

Lemonade Stands

Act 34 of 2021 (formerly HB 664) prohibits a municipality from requiring a license for a business that a minor operates occasionally and makes a profit of less than \$5,000 per year.

Signed: June 30, 2021.

Effective: August 29, 2021.

Special Event Permits

Act 36 of 2021 (formerly HB 765) amends Title 75 (*Vehicles*) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to prohibit the state Department of Transportation from requiring municipal indemnification when a third party with a special event permit has already provided indemnification to the Department.

Signed: June 30, 2021.

Effective: June 30, 2021.

Microenterprise Loan Program

Act 37 of 2021 (formerly HB 827) gives municipalities the option to create a microenterprise loan program and allow for tax abatement for blighted properties.

Signed: June 30, 2021.

Effective: August 29, 2021.

Authority Rate Adjustment

Act 43 of 2021 (formerly HB 957) amends 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 is 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 is required to adjust the billing and use the adjusted amount going forward. An owner will not be able to request another adjustment for a period of 5 years after a rate adjustment.

Signed: June 30, 2021.

Effective: August 29, 2021.

5G Regulations

Act 50 of 2021 (formerly HB 1621) provides for the regulation of small wireless facilities in municipal rights-of-way. It also authorizes 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 sets the maximum permitted height of the pole and small cell facility at 50-feet. Small cells are required to comply with restrictions in place in underground utility districts and municipalities are able to develop reasonable design guidelines to minimize aesthetic impact. Municipalities 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.

Signed: June 30, 2021.

Effective: August 29, 2021.

Look for additional guidance including a model ordinance from PSATS to assist with compliance.

Meeting Agendas

Act 65 of 2021 (formerly SB 554) amends the Sunshine Act to require agencies, including townships, to post a meeting agenda containing all items that will be voted on at least 24 hours before a meeting. Additionally, the agenda must be posted on an agency's website, if it has one, or at its building and meeting place. Act 65 does allow an agency to vote to add unadvertised items to the agenda if agreed to by a majority of the governing board.

Signed: June 30, 2021.

Effective: August 29, 2021.

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.

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](#)

Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

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