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July 19, 2021

Latest News

Treasury Releases New ARP FAQs; PSATS Submits Comments on Interim Rule

The U.S. Department of the Treasury has released several new FAQs for the American Rescue Plan. Most appear to be beneficial and clarify several issues of interest to townships. The FAQs clarify that infrastructure projects do **not** need to comply with the federal Davis Bacon prevailing wage act unless a project is \$10 million or more. Also, they include which utilities are included in the revenue loss formula and which ones are not. Additional FAQs address stormwater projects, culverts, repairs of roads due to infrastructure projects, providing broadband through libraries and schools, and pooling funds for intergovernmental cooperation. Finally, [Click here](#) to view the FAQs

PSATS has submitted comments to Treasury on the ARP Interim Final Rule. The Association included a lengthy list of needed clarifications and desired changes. These include allowing funds to be given to any nonprofit, not just a 501(c)(3), expanding allowable infrastructure projects to include road and bridge infrastructure, authorizing the purchase of fire trucks and ambulances, directing townships to use state purchasing guidelines rather than federal, removing the restriction on purchases prior to March 2021, and broadening flexibility for broadband. [Click here](#) to view the comments.

Money “Left on Table”?

Nobody wants to read a local newspaper headline that your township residents did not benefit from available federal recovery funding because the township officials didn't take the time to fill out a form! If your township is one of the nearly 100

that has not yet applied to the state Department of Community and Economic Development for the ARP funds that your township is entitled to, please start the application today. **Applications are due July 29**, and your township will lose its funds if you fail to apply. Please call PSATS at (717) 763-0930 with questions. [Click here](#) to learn more.

As a reminder, DCED recommends using **352.53 or 352.530, Federal Entitlements to Governmental Units**, from the Chart of Accounts to record this new revenue source.

Registration for Centennial Celebration, Business Meeting Opens in Two Weeks!

Separate registrations for PSATS' Annual Business Meeting and Centennial Celebration Dinner will each open at 9 a.m. on Monday, August 2.

The **Business Meeting** is scheduled for **Friday, October 15**, in the Great American Hall at the Hershey Lodge. Everyone is invited, but voting delegates need to attend for important business that has been piling up due to the cancellation of PSATS' last two annual conferences. The meeting will start at 8 a.m. and conclude around 1:30 p.m.

Materials for the Business Meeting will be prepared and sent to each township by the end the summer. This will include resolutions, bylaw revisions, and nominations. The Resolutions Committee will meet on October 14 to consider any new resolutions submitted since its March 2021 meeting.

The **PSATS Centennial Celebration Dinner** will be held the night before, **Thursday, October 14**, from 6 to 9:30 p.m. at the Lodge. The Pennsylvania Leadership Institute, a 501(c)(3) non-profit will host the celebration, also in the Great American Hall.

Registration for both events will open August 2.

If you're going to the Business Meeting, register at voting2021.psats.org.
If you're going to the Centennial Celebration, register at PSATS100.mypli.org.

If you're attending both events, start at one site and finish at the other. You will find a button at the end of the one to go to the other. The HOTEL RESERVATIONS link will appear at the end of either event registration. You will only need to go through the hotel reservation process once – at the end of either registration.

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

Pa. COVID-19 Cases Double Week over Week

2,364 new cases of COVID-19 were reported last week, double the number of cases reported in the prior week. The statewide COVID-19 total case count now stands at 1,216,551. The commonwealth increased to the 45th highest growth in cases per 100,000, with Arkansas, Missouri, and Florida continuing to make up the top three. Nationally, the average daily reported cases have nearly tripled in the last month.

For the 13th week in a row, the [number of COVID-19 hospitalizations in Pennsylvania](#) has decreased – from 267 to 260, a 2.6% decrease. 50 of these

patients are in an ICU, down from 58 the previous week. The number of COVID-19 patients on a ventilator statewide decreased from 39 to 29.

Forty-two deaths attributed to COVID-19 in Pennsylvania were reported this week, one more than in the previous week. Total deaths in Pennsylvania have reached 27,792.

Pennsylvania's statewide percent-positivity rate increased for the second week in a row, from 1.2% to 1.7%, and remains below 5% for the ninth week in a row. Sixty-three counties now have rates of less than 5% (*down from 65 last week*), three counties have rates of 5% to less than 10% (*up from two last week*), and one county has rates of 10% to less than 20% (*up from none last week*). [Click here](#) for more county-specific information.

Today in History.....

On July 19, 1836, Samuel Colt (age 22) received the patent that would change the West. His revolving-cylinder pistol, U.S. Patent No. 138 would fire six-shot before needing to be reloaded. This revolutionary design would not be an immediate success, though. It would take American expansion and war to convince the United States government to invest in Colt's armament.

[Click here](#) for this week's issue of the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

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.

[Webinar - Effective Internal Controls and Why They Matter - 7/21/21](#)

Learn the basic internal controls that should exist within a sound business environment. Topics covered will include the components of the COSO internal control framework and how these components establish a foundation of effective internal controls within an entity, and an overview of internal controls over cash receipts, cash disbursements, and payroll.



[Webinar - In the Hot Seat - Handling Tough Situations as the Chair of the Board - 7/22/21](#)

Whether you have been the chair of your township board for a long time or are relatively new to the game, there are many situations during township meetings where it is critical that the chair resolve them in an effective manner.



[Webinar - Community Traffic Safety Programs - 7/28/21](#)

Learn about the different types of outreach programs that Community Traffic Safety Program Coordinators are presenting to schools, agencies, and organizations to help educate them on traffic safety issues across Pennsylvania.



[Webinar - Stream Maintenance - 8/4/21](#)

With seemingly more frequent, severe storm events occurring, public works departments are busy with culvert and bridge repairs and replacements and stream maintenance activities. These activities may be regulated by the state or federal government.



[Webinar - Your Personal Financial Foundation - Session 3 - 8/9/21](#)

In this webinar, you will learn how to leverage your current financial situation to better position you to achieve your goals.



[Webinar - Steps to Take After the Audit - 8/18/21](#)

Topics covered will include what types of information to communicate with your auditor between audits, areas of focus as the board/management reviews the audit, and potential areas in which your organization can improve.



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