

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

PSATS members
adopted
65 resolutions
that will
guide Association
legislative efforts
and critical bylaw
changes needed
to modernize
PSATS post-
pandemic.

Township Officials Celebrate Centennial, Take Action at Business Meeting

What a century! On Thursday, October 14, PSATS had a historic event at the Hershey Lodge to celebrate its Centennial. Founded in 1921 by Cappy Thomson, PSATS has provided a way for township officials to meet at their county level to share ideas, discuss common concerns, and meet with legislators. The dinner, hosted by the Pennsylvania Leadership Institute, was an exciting evening for all who attended.

PSATS members gathered in person on **Friday, October 15**, to network with one another and take care of important Association business at PSATS' Annual Business Meeting. Delegates adopted bylaws changes and elected Association officers and Executive Committee members. Members debated 82 resolutions, adopting 65 and delaying action on 7 new ones until the 2022 Annual Conference. The adopted resolutions set Association policy and direct PSATS' legislative agenda. A copy of the 2021 Adopted Resolutions is enclosed.

In addition, members heard from Association President Marvin Meteer and legislative updates from Senator Scott Martin and Representative Mike Carroll. The Derry Township Canine unit presented a demonstration. Outstanding achievement of townships and youth groups were recognized during the session, which ended with an American Rescue Plan Roundtable. Check out the December 2021 issue of the *Pennsylvania Township News* to learn more!

Get In Shape With PSATS' Boot Camp

PSATS Boot Camp is a three-part comprehensive introduction to township governance and operations taught by experienced township officials and other experts. Get ready for your new mission as you learn about the many state laws and regulations as well as how to access tools and resources that will lead to success on the job. Whether you are new to your township or a veteran of township government, PSATS Boot Camp will help you face the challenges encountered as a township official. This is the only training specifically designed for township officials so don't miss your chance to get into shape!

Your township secretary can coordinate registration to qualify for member rates. Remember, the law was changed in 2019 to allow for these training costs to be paid prior to taking office. Register at learn.psats.org today!

Trustees Offer Life Insurance Promotion

The PSATS Trustees is offering a new Life Insurance Plan design starting with 11/1/2021 effective dates. The new plan offers a \$25,000 term life policy with AD&D coverage and replaces our current \$12,000, \$20,000 & \$30,000 plans as a NEW plan offering. If you are currently on one of the plans being replaced, your coverage will be grandfathered in, so there is no need to change anything. If you do not currently offer a life insurance plan through PSATS Trustees, we are excited to offer an incentive program if you sign up for ANY of our plan offerings. **When your township starts coverage in November or December and commits to continue coverage for the 2022 calendar year, your**



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SB 698 would create countywide public safety authorities for the administration of fire and emergency services.

premiums for the remainder of 2021 will be at **NO COST to you!** That's 14 months of coverage for the price of 12! All plan options have only a 15 hour per week minimum for an employee to be eligible.

If interested in additional information or for details on how to sign up, please reach out to Insurance Coordinator Stephanie Dobson at 717-763-0930 ext. 133 or sdobson@psats.org.

Capitol Roundup

PSATS Testifies on Public Safety Authority Legislation — In October, PSATS First Vice President Andrew J. Boni, supervisor in Perry Township, Fayette County, testified before the Senate Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee. The testimony was on SB 698, which would create countywide public safety authorities for the administration of fire and emergency services. Boni raised questions about how the authority would operate and made suggestions for changes. Boni argued that the PSATS cannot agree to legislation that only authorizes a county authority or requires a minimum number of municipalities. Instead, options for emergency services need to be flexible and allow for creativity. To read the testimony, go to psats.org and choose Legislation & Policy, then Legislative Testimonies.

Congress Passes \$1.2 Trillion Infrastructure Deal — In November, Congress passed a \$1.2 trillion Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal. Pennsylvania's expected share of the new federal package includes \$11.3 billion for federal-aid highways and \$1.6 billion for bridge infrastructure; \$100 million minimum for high-speed internet access and lower prices for service; \$1.5 billion for drinking water, \$2.8 billion for mass transit, and \$171 million for electric vehicle chargers. PennDOT will need to provide \$1 billion in matching funds.

Extension of Liquor License Service Areas — Gov. Tom Wolf recently signed [Act 81 of 2021 \(HB 425\)](#) which authorizes the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board (LCB) to temporarily extend the licensed premises of a licensed entity, including a club, retail dispenser, hotel, and restaurant upon request. An extended licensed premise includes any outside serving area that is adjacent to the existing licensed area or within 1,000 feet of the main licensed building even if separated by a road. Act 81 took effect November 5, 2021.

PennDOT Accepting Public Comment on Bridge Tolling Proposals — The state Department of Transportation is currently accepting comments on the following proposed bridge reconstruction and tolling projects as part of the Major Bridge Public-Private Partnership (P3). If you have comments or concerns on any of these projects, you are encouraged to submit comments online. Deadlines are as early as **November 24**. To learn more and submit comments, go to penndot.gov and choose "Funding" below the picture.

American Rescue Plan Update

On November 5, the U.S. Treasury Department released an updated **Compliance and Reporting Guidance** for the American Rescue Plan. The updates address feedback gathered by Treasury, verify reporting timeframes, and clarify reporting deadlines. Townships should expect to receive an email notification from the state Department of Community and Economic Development about the update.

The guidance confirms that the annual Project and Expenditure Report for the ARP is due April 30, 2022, and will cover the period from when you received the funds through

SB 755
would give
municipalities
the option to
electronically
transmit land use
documents to
another entity for
review and
comment,
including
proposed zoning
ordinance
amendments.

March 31, 2022.

Please note that the guidance does include a reporting change for municipalities with populations of more than 50,000. Only one annual report will now be required for those with populations of less than 250,000 and that received less than \$10 million. It will be due on April 30, 2022, and will cover from when you received the funds until March 31, 2022.

Treasury indicated it will provide updated Reporting Guidance, a detailed user guide, and a webinar to assist with reporting prior to the April 2022 reporting cycle. Treasury also noted that it will provide further guidance for municipalities with less than 50,000 population, known as non-entitlement units (NEUs), including how to access Treasury’s portal for filing reports. Treasury previously indicated that NEUs would **not** use the ID.me platform. Treasury has NOT yet released the highly anticipated updated rules for the use of the ARP funds. Check for the latest updates in *PSATS’ Morning News* and on PSATS’ new American Rescue Plan webpage, accessible at psats.org in the red bar.

Grants Available

Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program: The Federal Emergency Management Agency is accepting applications for the 2021 Assistance to Firefighters Grant program until **December 17**. Eligible applicants include fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical services organizations. Applicants are encouraged to work with their FEMA Regional Fire Program Specialist. To learn more, go to fema.gov and choose “Grants” and then “Preparedness.”

PFBC Boating Facility Grant Program: The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission is offering Boating Facility Grants and townships until **December 30, 2021**. The program helps local governments improve public recreation boat access facilities in their communities that are available for general use. Applications will be accepted from anywhere in Pennsylvania, however special consideration will be given to projects that provide boating access in the Delaware River watershed. Go to fishandboat.com and scroll to the bottom of the page and look under “Forms/Transact” for “Grants.”

Local Government Legislation Moves Forward

The following bills of interest to townships recently saw action in the General Assembly: [SB 275](#) would prohibit municipalities from restricting access to any energy source. The bill clarifies that it does not affect municipal land use authority under the Municipalities Planning Code or a municipality’s ability to take steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from municipal facilities and operations. PSATS requested the clarification for land use regulations.

[SB 448](#) would clarify the existing prohibition on municipal regulation of firearms and ammunition. The bill would allow persons and organizations adversely affected by a municipal ordinance adopted in violation of existing law to seek damages attributable to the violation in an appropriate court, including the awarding of reasonable expenses by the court if the judgement is against the municipality.

[SB 471](#) would prohibit the commonwealth or its municipalities from mandating vaccinations for individuals or requiring vaccinations as a condition for employment.

[SB 755](#) would amend the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code to give municipalities and counties the option to electronically transmit those land use documents that currently must be submitted to another entity for review and comment, such as proposed zoning ordinance amendments and comprehensive plans.

[SB 881](#) would create a grant program for municipalities and counties to establish Safe Exchange Zones for child custody exchanges and the exchange of goods purchased online. These zones would have to meet certain criteria, including video surveillance, and the municipality would need to have a local police department.

[HB 764](#) would amend the Child Protective Services Law to allow employers to hire employees on a provisional basis on par with the 45-day provisional hiring window currently authorized for childcare providers. This would include employees hired for township recreational programs.

[HB 2071](#) would create a Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority to disburse funds for the expansion of broadband to unserved and underserved areas, coordinate broadband development, and produce a statewide broadband plan. This legislation would address a PSATS resolution.

Looking for PSATS Salary Survey Results?

PSATS 2021 Salary Survey Plus statewide results are enclosed, thanks to hundreds of participating townships! The results include directions for how to access more detailed reports online that allow townships to compare employee wages and benefits with those of similar townships with just a few clicks by region, population, similar budget size, and much more, which are useful for comparing and setting salaries!

If you already participated, thank you! We could not do this without you. Your township supervisors, manager, secretary, and other township-designated officials can access the results at their convenience. **If you haven't participated yet,** you can do so today and will have instant access to all results, while making the product better for all participants. To access Salary Survey Plus, log onto psats.org and look under "My PSATS" for "Salary Survey Plus."

This and That...

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

- **Reminder: Townships 2022 Organization Meeting Date** — Townships' 2022 organization meeting date will be Monday, January 3, since the legal holiday for New Year's will be December 31, 2021. The Second Class Township Code requires the supervisors' organization meeting to be held on the first Monday in January unless the first Monday is a legal holiday. The board of auditors will meet on Tuesday, January 4.
- **Have a New Supervisor? Let PSATS Know** — Township secretaries and managers: Did you have a new supervisor elected in November? Please send in names and home addresses of newly elected supervisors to PSATS as soon as possible. We would like to update our records and ensure that newly elected folks are eligible for township member discounts. Changes can be sent to memberservices@psats.org.
- **DCED Annual Filing Notice Mailed** — The state Department of Community and Economic Development mailed its Annual Notice to File to all municipalities in October. Township officials should look for this notice, which contains important information about required filings. The mailing addresses used were pulled from the 'Contact' position listed in your township's Report of Elected and Appointed Officials. If you have not received this letter, you may download a copy of it and the tip sheets referenced in it at dced.pa.gov. Choose Local Government, then Municipal Statistics, and then E-filing Library on the right-hand side of the page. Call 1-888-223-6837 with any questions.
- **Nominate an Outstanding Township Official** — Do you know an outstanding township supervisor, secretary, and/or manager who has demonstrated exceptional leadership, dedication, and creativity to improve their community? Now is your chance to give them the recognition they deserve by nominating them for PSATS' President's Leadership Award. You can find complete details and a nomination form at psats.org. Select the "Programs & Services" tab and then "PSATS Award Programs." Nominations are due January 31, 2022.