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December 16, 2021

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## Township Video News



### **TVN's Question of the Week | Is there a maximum amount a township must have in savings? (Dec. 16, 2021)**

A township's reserve needs vary, but must a township keep a certain amount in savings? Watch the video to get the answer. [Click here](#) to catch up on previous Questions of the Week!

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## Latest News

### **Reminder: Section 904 Recycling Grant Applications Due December 31**

The state Department of Environmental Protection is accepting applications for the Municipal Recycling Program Performance Grant (Section 904 Grants) until December 31 for eligible materials that were recycled and marketed in calendar year 2020. Awards are based on the weight of source-separated recyclable materials recovered by municipal recycling programs. [Click here](#) for more.

### **Reminder: Nominate a Project for Local Government Excellence Awards**

PSATS is urging townships to consider nominating a project for the 2022 Governor's Awards for Local Government Excellence. These awards recognize townships and officials who have found creative ways to improve their communities. The deadline for nominations is January 3, 2022.

Townships may nominate projects in the following categories:

- Building community partnerships
- Responding to adversity
- Promoting community/economic revitalization
- Innovative community/governmental initiatives
- Fiscal accountability and best management practices
- Intergovernmental cooperation
- Information technology
- Health and wellness initiatives

[Click here](#) to learn more about the judging criteria for each category, view past award winners, and submit a nomination.

### **Today in History....**

On December 16, 1773, a group of Massachusetts colonists disguised as Mohawk Indians board three British tea ships and dump 342 chests of tea into Boston Harbor.

The midnight raid, popularly known as the "Boston Tea Party," was in protest of the British Parliament's Tea Act of 1773, a bill designed to save the faltering East India Company by greatly lowering its tea tax and granting it a virtual monopoly on the American tea trade. The low tax allowed the East India Company to undercut even tea smuggled into America by Dutch traders, and many colonists viewed the act as another example of taxation tyranny.

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## Legislation & Policy



Yesterday, **PSATS Director of Government Relations Joe Gerdes testified before a joint hearing of the House and Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committees on fireworks.** Gerdes noted that the legalization of fireworks has brought significant challenges to townships, primarily due to a disregard for public safety and a lack of commonsense among some users. Gerdes said that townships should have the ability to reasonably regulate the frequency and length of consumer fireworks displays, including limits on the hours they may take place. [Click here](#) for the full testimony.

The Senate passed [HB 2071](#) and the House concurred on Senate amendments. The bill would create a **Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority** to disburse state and federal funds for the expansion of broadband to unserved and underserved areas, coordinate broadband development, and produce a statewide broadband development plan. The legislation is needed to access \$100 million in federal aid for broadband rollout. The bill would address a PSATS resolution. HB 2071 now goes to Gov. Tom Wolf, who applauded passage of the bill and is expected to sign it.

The **House Local Government Committee** met yesterday and reported the following bills out of committee:

[SB 673](#) would amend the **Second Class Township Code** to prohibit the board of auditors from surcharging an elected or appointed official when that official acted in good faith based on a written, nonconfidential opinion of the township's solicitor or an opinion of the solicitor publicly stated at an open meeting. The bill also would allow a township to appoint a partnership, limited partnership, association, or professional corporation as the township's manager – in addition to the current ability to appoint a person.

[HB 1592](#) would amend the **Municipalities Planning Code** to give municipalities and counties the option to transmit land use documents electronically that they are currently required to submit to another entity for review and comment, such as proposed zoning ordinance amendments and comprehensive plans.

[HB 2148](#) would authorize local governments to **voluntarily place legal notices** on a website, in addition to the required newspaper advertisement. If the newspaper failed to timely publish the advertisement, the advertisement placed on the website, along with proof of publication and payment to the newspaper, would satisfy the legal requirements for advertising.

The following bills passed the House yesterday:

[HB 1694](#) would amend the Recreational Use of Land and Water Act to provide **protection from liability for volunteers and volunteer organizations** that care

for, preserve, or maintain land for recreational purposes.

[HB 1877](#) would establish the **Municipal Boundary Change Act** to consolidate and standardize municipal code provisions that deal with boundary change but not mergers or consolidations. The bill would allow municipalities to adjust a municipal boundary or settle a dispute over an unclear boundary by agreement.

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## Learn

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

### [Flagger Training - 2/24/22 - Cumberland County](#)

This instructor-led Flagger Training will be conducted for individuals who have flagging responsibilities on ANY ROAD OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. Others who would benefit from this course include: utility companies working on low volume roads, law enforcement personnel, municipal managers and elected officials (to understand the importance, and for budgeting purposes).



### [Webinar - Stormwater Management: An Annoying Requirement, Simplified - 1/26/22](#)

This webinar is designed to provide participants with an overview of the challenges and best practices associated with managing a township's many stormwater-related responsibilities – in a way that is user friendly and easy to understand.



### [Webinar - Where We Ride: Bicycle and Pedestrian Networks and Improvements - 2/23/22](#)

Do all streets and roads need to be “complete”? Not all do, but enough to create a network that allows bicyclists and pedestrians to travel to their regular destinations.



**Webinar - What Your Public Works Director  
Wants You to Know - 3/23/22**

Your township's public works staff have unique perspective, knowledge, history and information that greatly benefit elected officials and senior employees. Confronted daily with the challenge of solving problems with finite resources, they are your front line for issues that matter to your constituents.



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Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

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