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December 8, 2021

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## Latest News

### **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.

### **Delaware River Basin Commission Accepting Comments on Impact of Hydraulic Fracturing**

The Delaware River Basin Commission will hold a series of public hearings beginning today and accept written comments until February 28, 2022, on a proposal to amend its current regulations concerning water imported into the

Delaware River Basin and prohibit the discharge of wastewater from high-volume hydraulic fracturing and related activities to waters or land within the basin. Hydraulic fracturing, also known as fracking, is used to drill for natural gas, and the proposal would further address these activities. To learn more about the proposal or how to provide comments, [click here](#).

### **State Police Offer Law Enforcement Training to Teens**

To encourage young people to consider a career in law enforcement, the Pennsylvania State Police are offering a free 15-week program at the PSP Academy for teens ages 15 to 18 who are considering a career in law enforcement. Students will have one-on-one interaction with PSP Troopers while learning about various aspects of law enforcement, including the Pennsylvania crimes code and vehicle code, rules of criminal procedures, principles of law enforcement, and participating in physical fitness. The program begins in February. [Click here](#) to learn more.

### **Inflation Expected to Continue**

The Independent Fiscal Office's Monthly Economic Update features an article on inflation and the expectation that it will continue due to strong consumer demand and increased cash savings through the spring. [Click here](#) for more information.

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

On December 8, 1941, as America's Pacific fleet lay in ruins at Pearl Harbor, President Franklin Roosevelt requests, and receives, a declaration of war against Japan.

Leaning heavily on the arm of his son James, a Marine captain, FDR walked haltingly into the House of Representatives at noon to request a declaration of war from the House and address the nation via radio. "Yesterday," the president proclaimed, "December 7, 1941—a date which will live in infamy—the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan. No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory."

***Apologies for yesterday's typo in "Today in History"***

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## Legislation & Policy



### **Local Leaders Say Streamlined Permitting, Funding Needed to Protect Against Flooding**

The House Majority Policy Committee held a hearing in Wellsboro yesterday to hear from local officials in Tioga and Bradford counties, as well as conservation officials, farmers, and landowners. The concerns raised during testimony included the importance of working proactively to mitigate flood damage before it happens; frustration with permitting delays and costs; and funding for stream maintenance projects.

Deven Martin, a supervisor from Delmar Township in Tioga County, expressed frustration with the complicated and costly process of obtaining permits to maintain streams and the limitations municipalities face in keeping culverts and bridges clean from debris.

“There need to be options for both townships and landowners to clean the streams of debris,” he said. “For example, if we can see an obvious problem (like a tree down) outside of the 50 feet, why can we not address that and prevent a future problem? I think this would save countless hours, dollars, and headaches down the road. I am not the only person who has thought this, so we need to stop thinking and come up with a simple plan to accomplish this goal.” [Click here](#) for more coverage of the hearing.

There was a resolution from Tioga County Association of Township Officials presented at the PSATS Fall Business meeting to address these options, but was tabled by the delegates until the 2022 meeting. Subsequently, the PSATS Executive Board adopted interim association policy at their November meeting in support of these options. This will also come before the delegates in 2022.

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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.

**[The Code Officials Guide to Zoning - Virtual Class - 1/18/22](#)**

The 90-minute online course provides a comprehensive overview of current zoning issues and problems as they inter-relate to the UCC. Topics include: overview of the MPC, zoning requirements and difficulties, responsibilities of BCOs to meet and manage zoning challenges, permit issuance and enforcement conflicts, violation letter requirements and templates, and legal issues in zoning.



**[Duties of a Zoning Hearing Board](#)**

Topics to be covered include procedures for deciding variances and special exceptions, handling hearing-related questions, Ethics Act requirements and much more.



**[2/22/22 - Chester County](#)**

**[3/3/22 - Butler County](#)**

**[3/8/22 - Cumberland County](#)**

**[Duties of a Zoning Hearing Board - 3/15/22 - Virtual Class](#)**

Topics to be covered include procedures for deciding variances and special exceptions, handling hearing-related questions, Ethics Act requirements and much more.



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Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

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