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February 2, 2022

Latest News

Happy Groundhog Day!

There is no shortage of weather guessers and this morning another rodent entered the fray for his annual appearance. Punxatawney Phil saw his shadow and projected 6 more weeks of winter and bad news for township winter maintenance budgets.

Updated PSATS American Rescue Plan Fact Sheet Now Available

As a member service, PSATS has updated its American Rescue Plan Fact Sheet to incorporate the latest guidance under the U.S. Treasury's Final Rule. It includes the new option to take a standard allowance of up to \$10 million for lost revenues, which may be used for general government operations. [Click here](#) for the fact sheet. [Click here](#) for the PSATS ARP webpage.

DCED Accepting Applications for Act 13 Grants

The state Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) is now accepting applications for Act 13 programs until May 31, 2022. There are several specific grant programs funded from impact fees from natural gas wells under Act 13 of 2012:

[Abandoned Mine Drainage \(AMD\) Abatement & Treatment Program](#): Townships may apply for grants to reclaim abandoned mine wells, remediate and repair existing AMD project sites, and monitor water quality to track nonpoint source load reductions from AMD remediation projects.

[Baseline Water Quality Data Program](#): Townships may apply for grants to establish baseline water quality data on private water supplies using the Baseline Water Quality Data program.

[Flood Mitigation Program](#): Townships may apply for grants to perform flood mitigation projects.

[Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program](#): Townships may apply for funding to plan, acquire, develop, rehabilitate, and repair greenways, recreational trails, open space, parks, and beautification projects.

[Orphan or Abandoned Well Plugging Program](#): Townships may apply for grants to clean out and plug abandoned and orphan oil and gas wells, stray gas mitigation systems, and well venting projects.

[Sewage Facilities Program](#): Townships may apply for grants for costs associated with the planning work required under Act 537, the Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act.

[Watershed Restoration and Protection Program](#): Townships may apply for grants to construct, expand, repair, maintain, or rehabilitate new or existing watershed protection best management practices.

State Revenues Exceed \$2 Billion Over Estimate

The Independent Fiscal Office (IFO) and state Department of Revenue have released January 2022 revenue reports. State General Fund collections totaled \$3.6 billion in January and were 14% higher than estimates. The overage was primarily due to stronger-than-anticipated collections for the sales and use tax and personal income tax. PIT collections alone were 8.6% above estimate. Overall collections for the fiscal year-to-date are higher than expected (*\$2.2 billion, or 9.2% above estimate*).

The Motor License Fund received \$223 million in January, \$0.3 million below estimate. The fund includes liquid fuels taxes and other license, fine, and fee revenues. Motor License collections for the fiscal year-to-date total \$1.6 billion, 3.9% above estimate.

[Click here](#) for the Independent Fiscal Office report. View the state Department of Revenue [press release here](#).

Today in History.....

On February 2, 1876, the National League of Professional Baseball Clubs, which comes to be more commonly known as the National League (NL), was formed. The American League (AL) was established in 1901 and in 1903, the first World Series was held.

Legislative News



Speaker of the House Bryan Cutler (R-Lancaster) today ordered a special election to be held on Tuesday, April 5, to fill the vacant seat in the 19th Legislative District in Allegheny County. The seat was vacated when Rep. Jake Wheatley left office to join the Mayor of Pittsburgh's administration.

Learn

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

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.



[2022 PAAZO Spring Educational Forum - 4/24/22](#)

This educational forum explores issues that zoning officers and planning and zoning officials face on a regular basis, and discusses effective strategies to address them.



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