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July 12, 2022

Township Video News



TVN's DaveTalk | Summer is the time to think about...snow?!

Winter might seem far away, but townships should take advantage of winter road service agreements now! PSATS Executive Director Dave Sanko explains how PennDOT can help with road maintenance during those cold and snowy winter months.

Latest News

Good News....Bad News on ARP Funding

According to the Office of State Treasurer Stacy Garrity, some ARP money will be coming out this Friday, July 15, 2022. Unfortunately, this will only be the year 1 distribution for the unallocated funds so the deposits will be small. A later (second) transaction will be a combined amount of Tranche 2 and the year 2 reallocation. As soon as the round one funds are out, we are told DCED can make an application to Governor's Budget Office to release the second transaction. We will keep you apprised as to the expected receipt timing.

Commonwealth Authority Accepting Applications for RACP on July 25

The Office of the Budget will begin accepting applications for the latest round of the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) beginning July 25. Applications will be due August 19. RACP grants are for the acquisition and construction of regional economic, cultural, civic, recreational, and historic improvement projects. These projects, requiring a 50% match, are authorized in the Capital Budget, must have a regional or multijurisdictional impact, and generate substantial increases or maintain current levels of employment, tax revenues, or other measures of economic activity. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Today in History...

On July 12, 1957, Dwight D. Eisenhower becomes the first president to ride in the newest advance in aviation technology: the helicopter.

Although experimental military helicopters had been tested since 1947, it was not until 10 years later that a president considered using the new machine for short, official trips to and from the White House. Eisenhower suggested the idea to the Secret Service, which approved of the new mode of transportation, seeing it as safer and more efficient than the traditional limousine motorcade. The HMX-1 Nighthawks squadron put into the president's service was initially administered jointly by the Army and the Marine Corps. In 1976, the Marine Corps took over all helicopter operations.

Legislative & Policy



Governor Signs Fiscal Code Bill

Gov. Tom Wolf signed [Act 54 of 2022](#) yesterday. Act 54 is the Fiscal Code bill for 2022-2023, which spells out how many of the new budget allocations will be spent, including the creation of grant programs. The act does the following:

- Creates a grant program of \$135 million for local law enforcement support. Municipalities under 18,000 could receive up to \$1 million and those with populations between 18,000 and 55,000 are limited to \$5 million:
- Allocates \$214.4 million to the Commonwealth Finance Agency water grants under the H2O Program;
- Allocates \$105.6 million for the Small Water and Sewer Program;
- Directs the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to provide \$25 million in grants for greenways, recreational trails, open space, natural areas, watersheds, community parks, and other natural resource projects.
- Allocates \$220 million to the Clean Streams Fund in DEP;
- Extends the municipal match requirement waiver for DCED Multimodal grants issued by the Commonwealth Finance Authority until December 31, 2022.
- Provides for an increase in Medicaid reimbursement rates for ambulance transportation, upon federal approval. This includes a loaded trip fee of \$325 for basic life support, \$400 per loaded trip for advanced life support, and not less than \$4 per mile for each loaded mile beyond 20.
- Appropriates funds to the State Fire Commissioner for a statewide recruitment and retention coordinator and regional technical advisors to develop and implement recruitment and retention training programs and provide technical assistance to local governments and fire organizations.

The new act addresses PSATS resolutions. PSATS staff continues to dig through the act and will provide additional details as we have them.

Wolf Signs Fireworks Legislation

Yesterday, Gov. Tom Wolf signed [Act 74 of 2022](#) (*HB 2157*), which reforms the Fireworks Law to allow municipalities to enact conditions and limitations on the use and sale of consumer fireworks that do not conflict with state law. Specifically, municipalities will be able to require permits for the use of consumer fireworks, except for certain holidays, and prohibit the use of consumer fireworks within a community if it is not possible to use these devices without being within 150 feet of a building or vehicle.

Act 74 directs the 12% consumer fireworks tax to be allocated as follows: \$1.5 million to the Emergency Medical Services Grant Program; \$250,000 for online training programs for firefighters; \$1 million for loan forgiveness and tuition assistance to active volunteer firefighters and volunteer emergency medical services providers; \$1 million for training emergency medical services personnel; \$500,000 for emergency services training center capital grants; \$500,000 for career fire department capital grants; \$250,000 for a public safety campaign on fireworks; and the remaining funds would be divided between the Fire Company Grants and Emergency Medical Services Grants (*Note: currently only one-sixth of these funds*

or up to \$2 million are used for Emergency Medical Services Grants and online training for volunteer firefighters.) Act 74 addresses several PSATS resolutions and will take effect September 10.

Wolf also signed the following bills yesterday:

[Act 57 of 2022](#) (HB 430) amends the Local Tax Collection Law to allow taxpayers who fail to receive a tax notice during their first year of occupancy to receive a waiver of penalties and additional costs from the tax collector, after being shown proof of the property transfer.

[Act 58 of 2022](#) (HB 581) creates a process for local governments to exempt blighted properties that are significantly improved or new construction in deteriorated areas from property taxes.

[Act 59 of 2022](#) (HB 773) increases penalties for certain DUI offenses and requires consecutive sentencing for certain repeat offenders.

[Act 60 of 2022](#) (HB 940) establishes penalties for intentionally injuring or torturing a police animal. Emergency response providers will be authorized to provide medical care and transportation for a police animal injured in the course of duty and given civil immunity for rendering aid. The act requires the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission to establish police canine training and certification standards and review and update these standards every two years.

[Act 65 of 2022](#) (HB 1598) amends the Flood Plain Management Act to transfer administration and oversight of the program from the state Department of Community and Economic Development to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency. This includes review and approval of municipal flood plain management ordinances. Act 65 completes the transfer of responsibilities to PEMA that was incorporated into the Administrative Code in 2021.

[Act 67 of 2022](#) (HB 1615) allows limited winery license holders in all counties except Pittsburgh and Philadelphia to use amplified sound as long as it does not exceed 75 decibels beyond the property line. Amplified sound will only be permitted from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 10 am to midnight on Friday and Saturday.

[Act 72 of 2022](#) (HB 2097) sets the minimum staffing for a Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulance in a county of county of the fifth, sixth, seventh, or eighth class as an emergency medical service (EMS) vehicle operator and an EMS operator that is an emergency medical technician (EMT) or above.

[Act 83 of 2022](#) (SB 251) regulates the application of fertilizer and professional fertilizer applicators to reduce excess levels of nitrogen and phosphorus. PSATS worked over several sessions to make Act 83 effective while protecting townships from an expensive and possibly burdensome mandate. The act includes a homeowner education program

[Act 84 of 2022](#) (SB 382) changes the transportation public-private partnership (P3) approval process and prohibits the approval of projects involving mandatory fees.

[Act 89 of 2022](#) (SB 1093) amends the Outdoor Advertising Control Act to allow energy efficient lighting to be installed on these facilities if no structural changes are required.

[Act 90 of 2022](#) (SB 1094) requires the state Department of Transportation to obtain driver record information from the Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse before issuing, renewing, upgrading, or transferring a commercial driver's license.

[Act 91 of 2022](#) (SB 1171) exempts government-owned vehicles and vehicles of local government contractors that are providing material for road construction or maintenance from bonding requirements on commonwealth-owned highways. Act 91 addresses a PSATS resolution.

Wolf also vetoed [SB 275](#), which would have prohibited municipalities from restricting access to any energy source. PSATS worked to clarify that the bill did 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.

Learn

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

[PSATS 2022 Regional Forums](#)

This series of full-day educational sessions is scheduled for multiple locations statewide. Learn more about issues that matter to your community, discuss common interests with other local leaders, earn PMGA and other professional credits, and attend specialized workshops designed for township officials. This educational event will be the perfect opportunity to hear from experts on the **local issues** that matter to you and your municipality.



PSATS Northwest 2022 Regional Forum - 8/4/22 - Erie
PSATS Southcentral I 2022 Regional Forum - 8/31/22 - Lancaster
PSATS Northeast 2022 Regional Forum - 9/22/22 - Tannersville
PSATS Southwest 2022 Regional Forum - 9/29/22 - Cranberry Township
PSATS Southeast 2022 Regional Forum - 10/6/22 - Plymouth Meeting
PSATS Southcentral II 2022 Regional Forum - 10/11/22 - Gettysburg
PSATS Centre Regional 2022 Regional Forum - 10/25/22 - State College
PSATS Lehigh Valley 2022 Regional Forum - 11/1/22 - Allentown

[Click here for more information and to register](#)

Developing Your Township Budget

This class will provide proven and effective methods and techniques to help new and veteran township supervisors, secretaries, treasurers, managers, road masters and public works officials develop budgets that work.

[8/8/22 - Franklin County](#)

[8/9/22 - Washington County](#)

[8/10/22 - Clarion County](#)

[8/11/22 - Luzerne County](#)

[8/24/22 - Chester County](#)



Basic Training For Secretaries And Administrators - 8/23/22 - Lackawanna Co.

Topics covered will range from budgeting, purchasing, advertising and meeting management all the way to human resource issues and public engagement.



2022 PSATS Fall Solicitors Seminar

This seminar will cover a wide variety of emerging and important trends and issues vital to the practice of every municipal solicitor.

[9/20/22 - Cumberland County](#)

[11/10/22 - Montgomery County](#)



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