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December 8, 2022

Township Video News



TVN's Question of the Week | Can a township reimburse its employees for the cost of individual health insurance?

Holly explains how Health Reimbursement Arrangements (HRAs) may be used to reimburse employees for medical expenses in this week's Q&A. Also, [click here](#) to catch up on previous Questions of the Week.

Latest News

PSATS Collaborates with PSP on Infrastructure Threats

PSATS has entered into a collaboration with the Pennsylvania State Police and the Pennsylvania Office of Homeland Security in an effort to bridge any gaps in information sharing between township officials and the Pennsylvania Criminal Intelligence Center (PaCIC); particularly regarding potential threats to our residents and infrastructure.

As part of this collaboration, PSATS is asking any of our townships who may have received any type of threatening communications recently with regard to direct or indirect threats against energy infrastructure to contact staff member George Bivens, PSATS Government Relations, at gbivens@psats.org or 717-763-0930, ext 127.

Members should also be aware that Maryland became the third state, along with South Dakota and South Carolina, to recently ban the use of TikTok on any state-owned communications device out of concerns for possible data collection through this app by the Chinese government.

The federal government has been looking at these concerns for some time, along with the FCC Commissioner calling for it to be banned. Legislation was recently introduced in Congress to ban it from all federal devices. It is suggested that any township using this platform monitor the situation to assess the risk to your township based on how it is used.

Clarification on New Report Fields for DCED Report

New for 2023, the Report of Elected and Appointed Officials (DCED-CLGS-19) will collect information on a township's property insurance carrier name and coverage limit and the liability insurance carrier name and coverage limit. Please note that this is referring to the coverage provided by the township, not individual officials.

The 2023 Report of Elected and Appointed Officials will be available after January 1, 2023, on the Municipal Statistics website. If you have questions about the new reporting fields, email the Governor's Center for Local Government Services at RA-munistats@pa.gov or call 888-223-6837.

Today in History....

On December 8, 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. Roosevelt's 10-minute speech, ending with an oath -"So help us God" - was greeted in the House by thunderous applause and stamping of feet. Within one hour, the president had his declaration of war, with only one dissenting vote, from a pacifist in the House.

Legislation & Policy



2 More Resignations From Pennsylvania House as Majority Remains in Limbo

Lt. Gov.-Elect Austin Davis has resigned from his state House of Representatives seat for the 35th District yesterday, effective immediately, so that he can focus on his new role as the state's lieutenant governor and assist in the transition to the administration of Gov.-Elect Josh Shapiro. The 35th House seat is in Allegheny County.

Rep. Summer Lee, who was elected to Congress, also submitted her resignation yesterday from the 34th House District, effective immediately. The 34th House seat is also in Allegheny County.

A special election was expected to be called for both districts after the state Speaker of the House is elected on January 3, when the General Assembly returns to Harrisburg. Instead, the resignations set off a flurry of confusion as Rep. Joanna McClinton, Democratic House Leader, had herself sworn in as majority leader and proceeded to issue writs of election for both seats for special elections to be held February 7, as well as for the seat vacated by the death of Rep. DeLuca. All three vacant seats are in Allegheny County.

The House Republican Leader Bryan Cutler took issue with McClinton's actions and accused her of a power grab as yesterday's resignations mean that Republicans will hold a 101-99 majority in the state House when session begins on January 3. Cutler already issued a writ of special election for the vacant DeLuca seat on November 30, the last day of the 2021-2022 legislative session. However, the Cutler writ was rejected by the Department of State for being submitted a day before the position officially became vacant December 1 despite the death occurring in October.

Stay tuned as the new session is beginning with plenty of fireworks in the House.

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

This instructor-led Flagger Training will be conducted for individuals who have flagging responsibilities on ANY ROAD OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

[1/17/23 - Montgomery County](#)

[3/1/23 - York County](#)

[3/7/23 - Lehigh County](#)



[2023 Engineers Spring Seminar - 4/24 & 4/25, 2023](#)

The 2023 “Spring Township Engineers Seminar” is a series of two half-day events on Monday and Tuesday mornings during the PSATS Annual Conference in Hershey. Each morning's agenda will include important issues of interest to municipal engineers and their local government clients taught by knowledgeable and respected subject matter experts. We encourage your attendance at both of these interactive and informative sessions, each of which provides 3 PDHs per day.



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