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January 31, 2023

Township Video News



TVN's Bonus Question of the Week | Can a supervisor who serves as a volunteer firefighter donate money to the fire company?

Katie has the answer according to the State Ethics Commission for this week's bonus Q&A. Also, [click here](#) to catch up on previous Questions of the Week.

Latest News

Impacts of Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Department of the Army recently released the [Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States' \(WOTUS\) rule](#) (*note: the definition begins on page 139*). This rule establishes the grounds for determining if a water body is regulated under the federal [Clean Water Act](#), and will take effect March 20, 2023.

The final rule generally restores long-standing categories which previously defined WOTUS, and now establishes case-specific limitations on regulating a waterbody based on either the “relatively permanent standard” or the “significant nexus standard” for certain categories of waters.

Of interest to townships, the agencies deleted the broad set of “other waters” that could be interpreted as WOTUS. In removing this section and establishing requirements to meet the relatively permanent or significant nexus standard, fewer waters will be subject to the Clean Water Act under this rule.

The rule also excludes several categories of waters from the WOTUS definition, notably: ditches (*including roadside ditches*) excavated wholly in and draining only dry land that do not carry a relatively permanent flow of water; waste treatment systems designed to meet Clean Water Act requirements; prior converted cropland designated by the Secretary of Agriculture; and certain types of water-filled depressions created for the purpose of obtaining fill, sand, or gravel.

The National Association of Towns and Townships issued a [brief on the new rule](#), including an overview and potential impacts. NATaT [submitted comments](#) on the draft rule in 2022. Legal challenges are expected, and the U.S. Supreme Court will likely issue an opinion in 2023 in *Sackett v. EPA*, a long-running dispute regarding whether certain wetlands are subject to protection under the Clean Water Act. For more information, technical support documents, and fact sheets, please visit the [EPA website](#).

DEP Releases Final State Water Plan

The state Department of Environmental has released its final 2022 Pennsylvania State Water plan and interactive online water resources. The plan is intended to be a resource for decision-makers. The plan identifies regional and statewide water resources priorities and recommends actions to address them. Click here to view the [press release](#) and [final plan](#).

PSATS submitted comments to DEP on the draft plan in August. PSATS emphasized that the plan’s recommendations to strengthen the link between land use and water resources management should include voluntary tools, not mandates. As the Association opposes any legislation to require water usage fees from private or public water sources, PSATS supports the recommendation to NOT require any such fees, taxes, or restrictions on private water wells in recommending that well drillers be licensed and construct wells to established standards. The Association supports restoration of funding for Act 167 stormwater plans and Act

537 sewage facilities plans. [Click here](#) to view the comments.

Learn

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

[How To Fix Your Productivity To Amp Up Your Results - Virtual Class - 2/9/23](#)

Join master trainer, Chad Barger, for a fast-paced session filled with tips (hacks) for busy professionals to get more done, by working smarter, not harder. This presentation focuses not on what we do, but how we do it. Tips are provided to help professionals better manage email, meetings, their energy level, distractions, self care, to do lists and work life balance (but we prefer the term work life harmony). Attendees leave the session with practical tips that they can immediately implement to make their days more productive and therefore amp up their results.



[Basic Training For Municipal Secretaries And Administrators - 2/23/23 - York County](#)

This is your opportunity to learn from acknowledged experts about all the most important issues township secretaries and managers need to know. Topics covered will range from budgeting, purchasing, advertising and meeting management all the way to human resource issues and public engagement.



[2023 Update - Retirement Plans, Employee Hot Topics, Using Solicitors And More - 2/28/23 - Erie Co.](#)

In this event, which features a pre-program networking lunch, the team from Knox Law will cover a variety of issues important to municipalities. Those include:

- *10 Retirement Plan Administration Mistakes & How to Fix Them:* [Nadia Havard](#)
- *Hot Topics in Municipal Labor & Employment Law for 2023:* [Matt Lasher](#)
- *The Role of the Solicitor: How Solicitors can be*



Effective Members of the Township Team: [Tim Wachter](#)

- Q&A

[The Next Chapter: Building Confidence In Your Administrative Role - 3/21/23 - Chester County](#)

You may have taken PSATS' Basic Training for Secretaries and Administrators class and are wondering "now what?" If so, then this course is for you. Some of you believe that there is no free lunch, which is true, but you can share a day, including lunch, with three experienced municipal administrators where you can enhance your knowledge base and become more confident in your administrative role. In addition to providing best practices for financial security procedures, agenda and meeting practices, land development procedures, liquid fuels reports, and the administrative role in coordinating with fire and EMS services, there will be two roundtable discussions for you to bring your concerns and questions.



[Engaging The Public - Agendas, Minutes, Public Comment & RTKL Requests - Virtual Class - 3/23/23](#)

In this virtual class, we will cover a series of common, but challenging, issues that township administrators face when working with and responding to members of the public and media and highlight ways to effectively address them.



[2023 Solicitors Spring Seminar - 4/24/23](#)

This seminar will cover a wide variety of emerging and important trends and issues vital to the practice of every municipal solicitor. Don't miss this opportunity to hear from experts and network with your peers from around the state.



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