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February 21, 2023

Township Video News



TVN's Coffee and the Capitol | Senator Scott Martin

What does a new administration mean for Pa. municipalities? How can we bring more jobs and growth to the commonwealth? When do promises evolve into politics? Sen. Scott Martin, new Chair of the Appropriations Committee, discusses these topics with PSATS Government Relations Director Joe Gerdes for this month's Coffee and the Capitol.

Latest News

Reminder: Chesapeake Bay G3 Grants Deadline is March 8

The Chesapeake Bay Trust is accepting applications for the [Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns \(G3\) Grant Program](#). Over \$1.9 million in funding is available this fiscal year funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, and the Chesapeake Bay Trust.

Townships in the Chesapeake Bay watershed region are eligible to request funds for one of the project tracks listed below:

- Conceptual plans for Green Streets/Green Infrastructure Projects (*generally less than \$15,000*)
- Engineered designs for Green Street/Green Infrastructure Projects (*generally less than \$30,000*)
- Implementation/construction of Green Streets/Green Infrastructure Projects (*generally less than \$150,000*)
- Community greening (*generally less than \$50,000*)
- White papers (*generally less than \$20,000*)
- Green Street Charrette/Technical Planning Assistance

Applications must be submitted by **March 8, 2023**. For more information on eligible project types, please see the [Request for Proposals](#). For technical assistance, contact Nguyen Le at (410) 974-2941, ext. 110, or nle@cbtrust.org.

Abandoned Mine Land and Acid Mine Drainage Grant Round Opening Soon

The state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced 2023 funding rounds for the [Abandoned Mine Land \(AML\) and Acid Mine Drainage \(AMD\) Grant Program](#). A total of \$96 million is available under the program. Townships, councils of governments, and municipal authorities are eligible to apply through the [Commonwealth's Electronic Single Application](#).

DEP will accept applications in 2023 during the following application rounds:

- Application Round 1 —March 6 to April 28
- Application Round 2 —July 3 to August 25
- Application Round 3 —October 2 to December 2

Eligible projects must reclaim or enhance AML sites posing a threat to the environment and/or public health and safety. Sites must be determined to be eligible by the Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation, entered into AML inventory systems, and, in most cases, associated with a coal mine that was abandoned prior to August 3, 1977.

For AML/AMD grant program guidance and application instructions, please visit [DEP's website](#). Questions can be directed to RA-EPAMGrantProgram@pa.gov or (717) 783-2267.

Legislation & Policy



Today, in the State House of Representatives, the three newly elected members from special elections in Allegheny County will be sworn in bringing the House to full complement (102D-101R) pending the resignation of Representative Culver who was elected to the State Senate in a special election that filled the former Gordner seat.

The state House of Representatives will convene in Special Session to attempt to organize and adopt temporary rules of procedure that creates only one committee consolidating power into the hands of the legislative leaders (similar to the reapportionment commission). The committee will be comprised of 5 members; the majority and minority floor leaders, the majority and minority appropriations committee chairs and a fifth appointed by Speaker Rozzi. It appears as though rules of procedures and organizing for the regular session will again be postponed until next week at the earliest. [Click here](#) to watch the session live.

Learn

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

[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



PSATS Mini Boot Camp for Township Officials

Mini Boot Camps Coming in March! If you have been appointed as a supervisor or staff member in the last year or since the 2021 election and are looking to get caught up on your new township responsibilities, join PSATS for one of three one-day Mini Boot Camps in March. Sessions will be offered in Clarion on **March 11** and Lewisburg and Allentown on **March 18**. This course will cover the authority and powers of township boards, personnel management, the Right-to-Know Law, Sunshine Act and Ethics Act, public safety/emergency management, basic budgeting/finance, internal and external communications, and more.



[3/11/23 - Clarion County](#)

[3/18/23 - Lehigh County](#)

[3/18/23 - Union County](#)

[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.



5 Keys To Being The Kind Of Leader People WANT To Follow - 4/23/23 - Dauphin County

In this class, we will explore five fundamental and timeless principles (you could even call them laws) that hold the key to becoming the kind of leader that people on your team WANT to follow. You will be provided with the principles and the tools that will enable you to become the kind of leader people willingly, voluntarily, and enthusiastically WANT to follow. This class will be done in a fun, engaging, and highly interactive format.



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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