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March 23, 2023

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## Township Video News



### **TVN's Question of the Week | Does the bidding process apply to liquid fuels funds?**

Check out this week's Q&A for more information on how the bidding process applies to liquid fuels funds. Also, [click here](#) to catch up on previous Questions of the Week.

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## Latest News

### **Important Audit Announcement for 2023 Liquid Fuels Distributions**

As the state Office of Comptroller Operations is moving away from paper checks, some townships that did not have a direct deposit set up for their state fund may find that their 2023 Liquid Fuels deposit was made into a different account than the township had on file with the commonwealth. **At PSATS' request**, the state Department of Transportation has been working with the Auditor General's office to be sure that they are aware of the situation and that any municipality impacted does not receive a negative audit finding because they are charged with auditing liquid fuels funds.

As a result of these meetings, **the Auditor General has agreed that findings will not be written if a municipality's funds were deposited into a non-liquid fuels account provided that the municipality transfers the funds to the correct account within two months of receiving these funds.** If your township had liquid fuels funds deposited into a non-liquid fuels account, please make the transfer promptly, and no later than April 30 for deposits received on March 1, and preserve records of the initial deposit and subsequent transfer for the audit. If you have questions, please reach out to your PennDOT Municipal Service Representative.

### **Power of One Opportunity**

PSATS is looking for volunteers for Wednesday, April 12 starting at 9am. Volunteers would be helping to stuff welcome totes for the PSATS Conference. If you or anyone in your township would like to volunteer, please contact Member Services at (717) 763-0930, ext. 139 or [powerofone@psats.org](mailto:powerofone@psats.org).

### **Partial Scholarships for Secretaries and Administrators Class**

PSATS is hosting a Basic Training for Secretaries and Administrators class in East Providence Township, Bedford County, on **Monday, April 10**. In the class, Judy Lizza, an experienced township administrator, will cover a range of topics, including budgeting, purchasing, advertising, meeting management, human resources, and public engagement.

As a special offer made possible by PSATS through scholarships from the Pennsylvania Leadership Institute, **anyone who registers in the next week, (by Wednesday, March 29) will pay only \$99 (a discount of more than 20%)**. Click here [to register!](#) If you have any questions about the class, please contact Scott Coburn at PSATS ext. 171.

### **DCED Accepting Applications for Act 13 Grants**

The state Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) is accepting applications for Act 13 programs **until May 31, 2023**. Several specific grant programs are 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 non-point source load reductions from AMD remediation projects.
- [Baseline Water Quality Data Program:](#) Townships may apply for grants to establish baseline water quality data, including water sample collection

and analysis, 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.

For more information, click on the grant program links above or call DCED at 717-787-6245.

### **Fed Hikes Interest Rates to Highest Level since 2007**

The U.S. Federal Reserve once again increased its short-term interest rate, its ninth in the last year. This time the increase is by a quarter of a percentage point and officials indicated that increases are nearly at an end as the board attempts to balance reigning in inflation with monitoring the impact on the banking industry. While this interest rate hike raises the cost of borrowing, it also raises the interest that may be earned on banking deposits to the highest rates in 15 years.

### **REMINDER: 2023 Membership Card**

PSATS will be producing the 2023 membership cards for supervisors, secretaries and managers in townships that have renewed their annual dues. If you would like your membership card to also double as a photo ID card, this can happen in one of two ways:

1. Use the current picture we have on file.
2. You can upload your new picture

[Click here](#) to sign in to [www.psats.org](http://www.psats.org). Once signed in go to “My PSATS” then “My Profile” and select “Upload Profile Image.” Click on “Select Image to Upload” and find the image you want to upload. Once you find the image, click on “Open.” Make sure your image is how you want it to appear on the membership card. The image that is uploaded will be the image that appears on your card. Please note that if you post a township building photo, cartoon character, or pet, then THAT is what would appear on your ID card. We will only send cards with a human likeness.

Photos need to be uploaded by **March 27th**.

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## 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.

[3/30/23 - Delaware County](#)

[4/4/23 - Chester County](#)

[4/10/23- Cumberland County](#)

[4/13/23 - Erie County](#)

[4/23/23 - Dauphin County](#)

[5/3/23 - Lackawanna County](#)

[5/4/23 - Lancaster County](#)

[5/10/23 - Monroe County](#)

[5/10/23 - York County](#)

[5/15/23 - Cambria County](#)

[5/23/23 - Montgomery County](#)

[5/24/23 - Delaware County](#)

[6/6/23 - Pike County](#)

[6/8/23 - Washington County](#)

[6/13/23 - 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.



### **Performing MS4 Outfall Inspections - Virtual Class - Virtual Class - 5/18/23**

In this virtual class, attendees will learn a workable, effective framework for establishing a hierarchy for outfall inspections, a protocol for performing inspections in the field, and method for inspecting documenting and addressing potential illicit discharges. This class, which will be led by Mark Harman of ARRO Consulting, will benefit everyone involved in your township's stormwater management program, including supervisors, managers/secretaries, and public works management and staff.



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**Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors**

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