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March 16, 2023

Township Video News



What's considered a professional service when it comes to bidding requirements?

Do you need clarification on what professional services are exempt from bidding requirements? Katie has more details in this week's Q&A. Also, [click here](#) to catch up on previous Questions of the Week.

Latest News

Reminder: Townships Encouraged to Tell PennDOT How to Spend Transportation Funds

Every two years, the State Transportation Commission (STC) and the state Department of Transportation (PennDOT) conduct a statewide survey to gather feedback on Pennsylvania's transportation system as part of the 12-Year Transportation Program update. If you have not done so already and want to change the funding allocations, [click here](#) to take the survey by **April 30!**

Township officials and their residents are encouraged to participate in the survey and help identify whether state and federal funds should be spent on traditional road and bridge projects or alternate networks like mass transit, trails (bike-ped), aviation and ports; or a combination. Participants will identify how they travel throughout the commonwealth (*by car, mass transit, bike, etc.*) More important, participants can identify a transportation problem at a specific location on a map and provide a description of that issue to encourage PennDOT to address the issue. Finally, participants determine how to spend a mythical \$100 across six transportation categories.

Township officials may also participate in an Online Public Forum on the survey scheduled for Wednesday, April 12, 2023, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. To participate in the Online Public Forum, contact PennDOT's Program Center by email at RA-PennDOTSTC@pa.gov or phone at (717) 783-2262. [Click here](#) for more on the forum.

Provide Feedback on PennDOT Winter Services

Township officials and their residents are also urged to consider participating in a state Department of Transportation online survey about the Department's winter maintenance services. The 17-question survey asks about timeline expectations for safe and passable roads, ranking of snow-removal priorities, and how they rate PennDOT's winter services. The survey is open until **April 6**. [Click here](#) to take the survey. [Click here](#) for the press release.

Funding for Low-Income Water, Wastewater Bills Coming Soon

The state Department of Human Services intends to operate a water assistance program supported by federal Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) funding. Pennsylvania successfully spent all previously available funding of \$43.2 million to assist families who lost or were at risk of losing water service to their homes.

This additional ARPA funding will be available to low-income Pennsylvanians with past-due water or sewer bills, had water service terminated, or received a notice that they were up for termination. Payments will be issued directly to the drinking water service and wastewater service provider, which includes townships and municipal authorities that own water and wastewater systems. The new funding will come from states that did not spend their original federal funds. [Click here](#) to read the press release.

Legislation & Policy



Another State House Special Election Coming Soon

The resignation of State Representative Mike Zabel is effective today, March 16, at 9 am that will now leave the State House with 2 vacancies. The other vacancy is a result of the departure of Rep Lynda Schlegel-Culver who was elected to the State Senate in an earlier special election. There will now be 101

Democrats and 100 Republicans. Expect to see the Zabel special election in Delaware County to be set by Speaker of the House Joanna McClinton to coincide with the upcoming primary election on May 16. At that time, the House should be back to full complement again barring any other vacancies or departures.

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.

[3/23/23 - Erie County](#)

[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](#)

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

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

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



[6/6/23 - Pike 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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