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March 9, 2023

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## Township Video News



### **TVN's Question of the Week | What are allowable investments of township funds?**

Find out more information about which township funds can be invested. Also, [click here](#) to catch up on previous Questions of the Week.

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## Latest News

### **Final Reminder: PSATS Hosts Budget Briefing Today from 2-3 pm**

PSATS' Legislative Staff is hosting a FREE Members-Only budget briefing today, **March 9**, from 2-3 p.m. to help our members understand the proposal and the effect it will have on your township. This interactive session will provide a timeline of the budget process and highlight the top issues PSATS will focus on during budget discussions in the coming months. [Click here](#) to register for the PSATS budget briefing.

### **Reminder: DCNR Grant Funding Available for ATV, Snowmobile Trails until 3/31**

The state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Bureau of Recreation and Conservation is accepting grant applications for projects proposing land acquisition, planning, development, rehabilitation, maintenance, equipment purchase for maintenance and construction, or educational programs for ATV or snowmobile trails and facilities. Applications are due March 31.

To learn more, [click here](#) or contact the department's grants customer service center at (800) 326-7734, [DCNR-Grants@pa.gov](mailto:DCNR-Grants@pa.gov). Bureau staff are available to assist applicants, and their contact information is [available here](#).

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## Legislation & Policy



The state Senate and House of Representatives have now adjourned for budget hearings with the administration and will return to voting session on April 24, just in time for the PSATS Annual Conference. Remember to encourage your legislator to join you at the PSATS Legislative Reception April 25 at the Hershey Lodge! The [Senate Appropriation Committee budget hearing schedule](#) is posted here and the [House Appropriation Committee budget hearing schedule](#) will be posted here once it becomes available.

### **Election Set for One Seat While Another House Member Resigns**

Speaker of the House Joanna McClinton set the election date for House District 108, which includes parts of Montour and Northumberland counties, for the May 16 primary election. This is the seat vacated by now-Sen. Lynda Schlegel Culver.

Yesterday, Rep. Mike Zabel announced that he will resign effective March 16. Zabel represents the 163rd legislative district in Delaware County. He had been accused of sexual harassment.

Zabel's resignation will leave the 203-member chamber with 101 Democrats, 100 Republicans, and two vacancies. A vote of 102 is required to approve legislation in the chamber. Under House Rules adopted last week, House control will remain with the Democrats unless changed due to a special election.

### **Senate Moves Legislation**

Yesterday, the Senate took action on the following legislation of interest to townships:

The Senate approved [SB 211](#), which would establish statewide requirements for the **decommissioning and bonding of solar energy facilities**, which would preempt local decommissioning regulations. Bonds and a decommissioning plan would be required to be filed with the recorder of deeds. PSATS has concerns with the preemption language. The bill now goes to the House Consumer Protection, Technology, and Utilities Committee.

The Senate approved [SB 143](#), which would clarify that municipalities are **prohibited from restricting resident and business utility service access to any energy source**. The bill states that it does not affect municipal land use authority under the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code or a municipality's ability to take steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from municipal facilities and operations. PSATS is neutral on the bill as written after working in the prior session to make it clear that the bill does not affect municipal land use authority. The bill now goes before the House Local Government Committee.

The Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee approved [SB 433](#), which would require **Senate confirmation for the director of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency**.

### **Senate Unanimously Confirms Attorney General, PSP Appointments**

Yesterday, the Senate unanimously approved the nomination of Michelle Henry for Pennsylvania's Attorney General who is expected to speak at the April PSATS Conference. They also confirmed the nomination of Maj. Chris Paris for commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police.

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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.

[3/15/23 - Mercer County](#)

[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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**Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors**

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