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March 7, 2023

Township Video News



TVN's Training Tuesday | Get into March madness with a full calendar of PSATS' classes!

There's no shortage educational opportunities for the month of March! Make sure to sign up for PSATS' Mini Boot Camps, Flagger Trainings, and in-person and online classes. Visit learn.psats.org for the full calendar of March courses.

Latest News

Shapiro Budget Address Today, PSATS to Provide Webinar on Township Impact

Gov. Josh Shapiro will hold his first budget address today before a joint session of the House and Senate at 11:30 a.m. Click here to [watch the livestream of Shapiro's address](#).

PSATS' Legislative Staff will host a FREE members-only budget briefing on Thursday, **March 9**, from 2 to 3 p.m. to help our members understand the proposal and the affect 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](#).

Have You Registered for Conference Yet?

If you haven't yet registered for PSATS' "Road to the Future" 100th Annual Conference, now is the time! The March and April supervisors meetings are your last chance to have your board approve your attendance. What's more, the registration fee increases April 1 so there's no time like the present to go to conference.psats.org and register today.

Still on the fence? Sign up for the What You Need to Know Webinar on March 30 to see what you can expect at this year's conference. The webinar will be held twice, at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., so you can choose the time that is most convenient. Learn more and register [click here](#).

Don't miss the premier education and networking opportunity for township officials in the commonwealth, plus the largest municipal exhibit show in the state. Register today!

Norfolk Southern to Pay for Derailment Impacts

Gov. Josh Shapiro announced that Norfolk Southern has made an initial commitment to pay for millions in damages resulting from the February 3 train derailment that impacted residents in Beaver and Lawrence Counties. This includes the emergency response costs incurred by Commonwealth agencies and local fire departments that responded to the derailment, as well as a \$1 million community relief fund for business and residents who lost revenue due to the incident. Click here to [learn more](#).

Reminder: Digitizing Municipal Records Class to be Held Tomorrow, 3/8

The Pennsylvania State Archives (PSA) invites township officials to attend a free Zoom session, Digitizing Municipal Records: a Practical Discussion, which is scheduled for tomorrow, March 8, from 10:00 a.m. – noon.

Speakers will present a broad overview of regulations and best practices for digital conversions, as well as provide first-hand experiences from municipal staff who are currently in the trenches, as they share both success and failures with records conversion.

The session is free for interested parties but does require registration. For more information and to register for the Zoom session, [click here](#). Any questions, please contact Josh Stahlman at jostahlman@pa.gov.

Attention, Township Parks and Rec Departments

Registration is open for the Pa. Recreation and Park Society (PRPS) 2023 Conference and Expo March 19-22 at the Hershey Lodge. Attendees will have access to:

- more than 50 educational sessions, speakers, and general sessions to earn continuing education credits;
- multiple networking opportunities;
- exhibit show.

For more information or to register, see the [PRPS Conference and Expo webpage](#).

Legislation & Policy



The state Senate and House of Representatives will be in voting session today. [Click here](#) to view the proceedings.

Bill to Clarify Municipal Restrictions on Energy Sources Moves Forward

Yesterday, the Senate Local Government Committee reported out [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.

Senate Committees Advance Attorney General, PSP Nominations

Yesterday, the Senate Judiciary Committee unanimously advanced the nomination of Michelle Henry for Pennsylvania's Attorney General. The Senate Law and Justice Committee unanimously advanced the nomination of Maj Chris Paris to be the next commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police. Both nominations will go to the full Senate for final approval.

Learn

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

PSATS Mini Boot Camp for Township Officials

Topics to be covered in the Mini Boot Camp include 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.



[3/18/23 - 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.



Robert's Rules Of Order 101 - Common Motions And Procedural Rules - 3/29/23 - Cumberland County

While not required to do so, many municipalities use Robert's Rules of Order or some variation to provide stability and organization to the management of their meetings. In this class, we will cover the various motions (and their correct form) that are commonly used at public meetings, review how to prepare for meetings by scripting motions or expected actions to facilitate intended discussion, discuss participant behavior and exceptions to standard parliamentary procedure, and why specific rules should be in place for your board during public meetings.



Basic Training For Municipal Secretaries And Administrators - 4/10/23 - Bedford 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.



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.



Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors
David M. Sanko, Executive Director
4855 Woodland Drive
Enola, PA 17025