

Use of Radar by Local Police

PSAB has long-advocated for the use of radar by municipal police for responsible speed timing technology. This is a standing policy that has been adopted by the members of the Association. PSAB is also a member of the Radar Coalition.

Last session, the PA Senate did pass SB 535, but there was not enough time for the House to take action. Our 2017-18 pursuit of this pedestrian safety measure includes **supporting HB 43**.

PA continues to be the only state in the country whose local police cannot use this technology to ensure safety on their roadways. Latest statistics published by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration indicate that PA has the worst record for speed-related fatalities.



PSAB President Chuck Mummert spoke at the Rally for Road Safety advocating for passage of this critical speed timing technology.

State Highways in Boroughs

Since 1948, the Commonwealth's maintenance practices regarding its highway network have always been addressed at the discretion of the Secretary of PennDOT. As a result, the level of maintenance which the state may provide for a borough versus a first or second class township has seemingly been skewed to the advantage of townships. It is clear that the state does not treat its State Highway Network as a whole, interconnected system.

A reliable, safe and modern transportation system must be founded on a comprehensive and consistent policy of planning and maintenance. In light of MS4 and stormwater mandates, boroughs, unlike their neighboring townships, are deluged with expenses related to their storm system infrastructure. This session PSAB has developed language to address this inequity and is seeking sponsorship.

Tax-Exempt Properties

PA boroughs are home to a high number of non-profit and tax-exempt entities including historic landmarks, hospitals, colleges, and state properties. Some boroughs are saddled with up to 70 percent of their properties in tax-exempt status.

PSAB endorses measures requiring non-profit organizations to pay appropriate taxes based on their assessed values as they benefit from local services funded by residents and local businesses. **PSAB opposes measures to expand tax-exempt status.**



PSAB Past President Ed Child spoke at a press conference opposing measures to expand tax-exempt status.

Stormwater Mandates

PSAB will continue its efforts to provide boroughs with the ability to generate resources to cope with federal MS4 and related DEP mandates. During the last session, PSAB prompted legislation enabling boroughs to assess a fee for planning, installing, and maintaining infrastructure that addresses MS4 requirements. A 2016 stormwater bill passed the House, but died due to lack of action in the Senate.

PSAB has secured sponsorship of this language and will pursue its enactment in 2017-18. Without clear statutory authority in the Borough Code enabling the imposition of a fee to remedy MS4s, it **continues as an unfunded mandate** on borough communities.



PSAB Director of Government Affairs spoke about the unintended consequences of the Sunshine Act on local governments.

Sunshine Act

PSAB believes the current Sunshine Act strikes the right balance between transparency and a borough's need to engage in sensitive personnel and contractual discussions in executive session. However, **PSAB opposes HB 37** that would regulate executive sessions and place another unfunded mandate on local governments and taxpayers. This is a reintroduction of HB 340 which died last session.

PSAB is seeking supporter for last session's SB 411 which would remove various unintended consequences resulting from the original law including allowing agencies to charge for commercial requests; allowing for a 10-day response time; clarifying that bank numbers and passwords are private; adding campus police to the definition of municipal police; and changing eligibility of a requestor from a U.S. citizen to PA resident.



Voting delegates at the PSAB Annual Conference set PSAB's legislative agenda each year.

Emergency Procurements

The current Borough Code requires boroughs to undergo competitive bidding for all purchases and contracts over \$19,700. However, it is unclear regarding bidding for emergency purchases and contracts. **PSAB is securing the reintroduction of HB 2222**, which was introduced during the last session, to accelerate the ability of a borough to respond swiftly to emergencies in their communities, such as broken water or sewer lines.

The bill would amend Section 1402 (d) of the Borough Code to allow a borough to make necessary purchases in response to the situation. The bill would require council to adopt a resolution stating the extent of the emergency and the actions taken at its next public meeting. This would provide accountability and transparency for emergency expenditures, and would refute any challenges to the decisions made during such a circumstance.

Other municipal codes already contain similar provisions. This measure would provide boroughs similar abilities in instances when the governor declares a statewide emergency under Title 35.

About PSAB's Resolutions Process

Boroughs or County Boroughs Associations can put forth resolutions for consideration and can ask PSAB to advocate for or against an action. These resolutions are voted on at the business meeting at the PSAB Annual Conference each year.



Resolutions serve as a basis for public policy changes sought by PSAB advocates. Alert lawmakers and their staff at both state and national levels will note that their borough constituents are requesting action from them to address these issues.

Resolutions also unify PSAB members by identifying common issues facing our boroughs. Numerous successful policies and laws have been implemented as a result of advocacy efforts based on PSAB member resolutions.

Adopted resolutions are included in the PSAB Municipal Policy Statement, which is our public policy position document of record.

PSAB Conferences & Education

PSAB 106th Annual Conference
May 7-10, 2017
Hershey Lodge



PSAB Municipal Legal Update
Aug. 9-10, 2017
Sheraton Harrisburg/Hershey

PSAB Fall Leadership Conference
Oct. 14-16, 2017
Mount Pocono

PA State Association of Boroughs
2941 N. Front Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110
www.boroughs.org



Department of Government Affairs

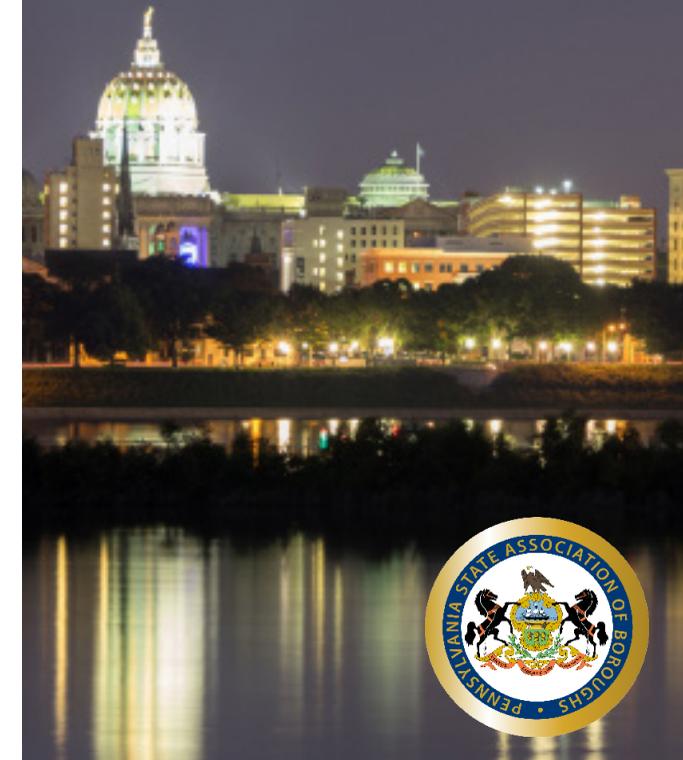
Ed Troxell
Director of Government Affairs
800-232-7722, Ext. 1021
etroxell@boroughs.org

Ron Grutza
Regulatory Affairs Coordinator
800-232-7722, Ext. 1044
rgrutza@boroughs.org

Stephanie Drake
Executive Administrator
Government Affairs Liaison
JCP Program Director
Assistant Producer, *Inside PA Boroughs*
800-232-7722, Ext. 1017
sdrake@boroughs.org

Leslie Suhr
Director of Public Affairs
Managing Editor, *Borough News*
Managing Producer, *Inside PA Boroughs*
800-232-7722, Ext. 1049
lsuhr@boroughs.org

PA State Association of Boroughs



Advancing Our Legislative Priorities