



April 2009

Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs

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PSAB Update

From the Desk of the Director of Communications

PSAB is hosting a Wake Up to the Issues Breakfast in Meadville on Friday, April 24 at 7:30 a.m. Ed Troxell, PSAB Director of Government Affairs, will speak with members about current legislative and regulatory issues. For more information, contact Terri Dickow, Assistant Director of Education & Meetings, at 800-232-7722 ext.42 or tdickow@boroughs.org.

Upcoming Training Opportunities

Webinars

April 9 – How Municipal Cemeteries as Historical Landmarks can Generate Revenue
April 14 & 30 – Rental Property Inspections Ordinance Preparation
April 16 – Police Certification
May 27, June 3 & 10 – Municipal Secretary Training Series

How to Plan a Festival or Special Event

April 6 – Crawford County
April 7 – Beaver County
April 8 – Westmoreland County

Marketing Your Municipality

April 15 – Montgomery County
April 23 – Butler County

Police Civil Service

April 22 – Clarion County
April 28 – Berks County
April 29 – Lackawanna County
April 30 – Lycoming County
May 5 – Dauphin County
May 7 – Allegheny County

For specific details visit the Training page at www.boroughs.org/training or contact Terri Dickow, Assistant Director of Education & Meetings at 800-232-7722 ext.42 or tdickow@boroughs.org.

Drinking Water & Wastewater Funding

The Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST) anticipates awarding \$100 million in funds at the July meeting; however, in order to be considered for this funding, applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on May 18. PENNVEST will host a meeting in the auditorium of the Rachel Carson State Office Building in Harrisburg on April 14 to discuss the types of projects that qualify for the \$70 million in ARRA funding the Commonwealth will receive. You are encouraged to contact your regional representative to discuss projects and ask application questions. Visit www.pennvest.state.pa.us for more information.

Boroughs ARRA Overview

Wondering what the stimulus package may hold for your borough? The PSAB Government Affairs Department prepared an overview of programs applicable for municipalities. From transportation to community development and law enforcement, there is money available, but your borough must act quickly if there is interest in securing funding for projects. To download a copy of the overview, visit www.boroughs.org. For more information, contact Ron Grutza, Assistant Director of Government Affairs, at 800-232-7722 ext.44 or rgrutza@boroughs.org.

Borough Code Revision Committee Update

PSAB has begun its sixth year of the Borough Code Revision Project. The first meeting was held August 2003 when the Committee reviewed Article IX, section 901 (Vacancies) and last month the group examined Articles XXII-XXIX (Storm Sewers to Cemeteries). The goal of the Committee is to remove archaic and unconstitutional language, reorganize topics and make it easier to understand since the last codification of the Borough Code was in 1961.

The Committee made some of the following recommendations during its February meeting: gave council the statutory authority to manage the funds (raised by the recreation tax) for the recreation board, authorized council to employ shade tree personnel (and not the shade tree commission), removed references to the Department of Forests and Waters under the Forest provisions, authorized council to license and charge a fee for the **for profit** parking garages and removed language directing former cemetery land to be used for only public libraries.

We periodically survey members about specific sections of the Borough Code prior to Committee meetings. The next section the committee will review is Article XXXI to XV. Upon conclusion of these articles, the Borough Code Revision Committee will start at the beginning of the Borough Code with Article I.

Borough Code Supplements

Under the provisions of Act 164 of 1976, the Local Government Commission (LGC) was charged with the preparation and distribution of updated copies of all municipal codes. During the week of March 9, 2009, numerous copies of Cumulative Supplement #5 to the 1998 edition of the Borough Code were mailed to each borough, excluding those that have adopted home rule charters. The LGC became aware that some of the packages in which the cumulative supplements were enclosed were destroyed and that their contents were lost. Any borough which did not receive this mailing of the new Cumulative Supplement #5 to the 1998 permanent edition of the Borough Code should contact the Local Government Commission by phone at 717-787-7680, by fax at 717-772-4524, or by e-mail at sebersol.palegislature.us.