

Dear Township Officials:

The State Association would like to provide you information on a variety of issues and educational opportunities. Please read each section carefully. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

HB 1 Biennium Budget

The House, as expected, rejected the changes to HB 1 made by the Senate. Both chambers named their conference committee members. The members are: House Finance Chairman Sykes, Ranking Minority Member Amstutz, Representative Goyal, Senate Finance Chairman Carey, Ranking Minority Member D. Miller and Senator Wagoner. Please express to these legislators your support or opposition to the points listed in the legislative alert sent on June 3rd. The conference committee will begin meeting today and, as always, the OTA will keep you up to date as information becomes available.

Webinar Announcement

The Ferguson Group will be hosting a webinar on Thursday, June 18 at 2:00 pm for National Association of Towns and Townships (NATaT) members. The program will focus on the stimulus bill and other federal funding opportunities and how best to position your township for future federal funding. To register for the webinar, please visit the following web site: http://www.fergusongroup.us/natat_stimulus.htm. Please note that all Ohio Township Association members are members of NATaT. The OTA encourages you to participate in this new educational opportunity.

Information Request

Liberty Township (Delaware County) is in the process of writing zoning code revisions. We have several drive-thru restaurants with preview boards and menu boards, which are not provided for in our sign regulations so they have always had to apply for development plan modifications in our planned zoning districts, or obtain variances in order to have. We have one fast-food drive-thru owner who claims "nobody" else in central Ohio treats these as signs. How do other townships treat the preview and menu boards for drive-thru businesses? Thank you for your consideration.

Holly Foust

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OPERS Information

The Ohio Township Association has been informed that the Columbus Dispatch, central Ohio's major newspaper, has requested from OPERS the annual amount (not the rate) of employer OPERS contributions for the last five years. This request includes the employer contributions made by all townships to OPERS. In the request for information sent by the Dispatch, the requester stated that the newspaper, in collaboration with other major newspapers around the state, are considering an in-depth look at Ohio's pension systems. We are alerting you to this should a newspaper in your area contact you for information.

Ohio Commission on Reform and Collaboration

The Commission is working on putting together a public hearing schedule that will include several meetings held around the state to allow for public input. Once that list is finalized, I will provide you with the dates, locations and times. Additionally, the OTA with the gracious assistance of Miami University - Center for Public Management and Regional Affairs has developed the website for the Commission. To view the Commission's objectives, testimony before the Commission, provide input relating to the Commission's three focus areas and receive meeting announcements, please visit www.ohioreformandcollaboration.org.

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