

MEETING OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

Wednesday, January 25, 2017

The meeting of the Local Government Commission was called to order by Senator John Eichelberger, Jr., at 8:45 a.m. in 14 East Wing–Main Capitol Building, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, with the following individuals present:

MEMBERS

Senator John H. Eichelberger, Jr., Chairman
Senator Thomas J. McGarrigle
Senator Scott E. Hutchinson
Senator John P. Blake
Representative Kate Harper
Representative Robert Freeman
Representative Mary Jo Daley
The Honorable Chris Ross
The Honorable Mauree Gingrich

STAFF

Philip H. Klotz, Executive Director
David A. Greene, Assistant Director-Legal Counsel
Wanda L. Snader, Associate Legal Counsel
Karen S. Bear, Secretary

GUESTS

Lee Derr, Senator Eichelberger's Office
Justin Leventry, Senator Hutchinson's Office
Rob Gaertner, House Local Government Committee (R)
Sean Sanderson, Department of Community and Economic Development
Amy Sturges, Pennsylvania Municipal League

As the first order of business, the Members discussed the minutes of the November 16, 2016, and December 13, 2016, business meetings, which were unanimously approved on a motion by Representative Gingrich and a second by Representative Ross. The financial reports for the months of November and December 2016 were presented, and a detailed explanation was given by the Executive Director. The financial reports were unanimously approved on a motion by Representative Ross and a second by Representative Harper.

The Executive Director explained the next item on the agenda, which was a printing contract to be awarded for the publication and distribution of new cumulative supplements to the County Code, the First Class Township Code, and the Second Class Township Code. Mr. Klotz stated that the Commission sent letters to approximately 26 printing firms inviting them to the prebid meeting, which was held on January 4, 2017. Four firms responded by either attending the meeting or requesting that the bid specifications be sent to them. Three firms submitted bids for the printing of the supplements by the deadline, which was January 11, 2017. All three firms that submitted bids complied with the bid instructions outlined in the contract. After a discussion, the Members unanimously decided on a motion by Representative Ross, which was seconded by

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Senator Hutchinson, to accept the lowest responsible bid submitted by Art Communication Systems, Inc. (ACS) of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The bid document from ACS revealed a final bid of \$9,842.00 for the printing and distribution of the three new cumulative supplements. The Commission will also reimburse ACS for postage costs associated with the mailing of the cumulative supplements.

The Director announced that the Commission Assessment Reform Task Force will meet on Thursday, January 26, 2017, to establish objectives and priorities for the 2017-18 legislative session. The Assessment Reform Task Force’s goal is to implement recommendations related to the efficiency, transparency, modernization and fairness of the property assessment process in this Commonwealth. The Director reviewed the appointments to the Task Force and noted that Commission Members Eichelberger, Blake, Harper and Daley will serve on the Task Force. The Director also recommended that Charles “JR” Hardester, Chief Assessor of Lawrence County, be added to the listing of Task Force participants since Mr. Hardester had been a member of the House Resolution 343 and 344 Task Force and served on the Blue Ribbon Committee that was charged with the study of reassessments. The County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania and the Assessors’ Association of Pennsylvania have been hosting working groups since 2009 to address needed reforms relating to data collection and generation by the State Tax Equalization Board within the Department of Community and Economic Development, as well as other assessment-related issues. The Commission Members unanimously agreed to include Mr. Hardester as a participant on the Commission Assessment Reform Task Force and expressed their enthusiasm generally for the Task Force.

As the last orders of business, the Commission Members unanimously approved on a motion by Representative Freeman and a second by Representative Daley to cancel the February 8, 2017, business meeting, unless new Commission Member appointments have been made. The Members also unanimously agreed that the Wednesday, March 8, 2017, business meeting should be moved to Wednesday, March 22, 2017, in order to accommodate the session calendars.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

ATTESTED: _____
January 26, 2017