

MEETING OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

The meeting of the Local Government Commission was called to order by Senator Robert D. Robbins at 8:45 a.m. in Room 14 East Wing-Main Capitol Building, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, with the following individuals present:

MEMBERS

**Senator Robert D. Robbins, Chairman
Senator Edwin B. Erickson
Senator John H. Eichelberger, Jr.
Senator John P. Blake
Representative Chris Ross
Representative Mauree Gingrich
Representative Kate Harper
Representative Robert L. Freeman
Representative Mary Jo Daley**

STAFF

**Michael P. Gasbarre, Executive Director
Philip H. Klotz, Assistant Director
David A. Greene, Legal Counsel
Karen S. Bear, Secretary**

GUESTS

**Chris Yniguez, Senator Robbins' Office
Lee Derr, Senator Eichelberger's Office
Luc Miron, Senator Blake's Office
Kyle Mullins, Senator Blake's Office
Christine Goldbeck, House Republican Research Office
Rob Gaertner, House Republican Research Office
Ed Troxell, PA State Association of Boroughs
Ron Grutza, PA State Association of Boroughs
Stephanie Drake, PA State Association of Boroughs**

As the first order of business, the Members discussed the minutes of the January 23, 2013, business meeting, which were unanimously approved on a motion by Senator Erickson and a second by Representative Ross. The financial report for the month of January 2013 was presented, and a detailed explanation was given by the Executive Director. The financial report was unanimously approved on a motion by Senator Eichelberger and a second by Senator Blake.

The Executive Director reported that all legislative service agencies (LSA) received notice from Senate Chief Clerk W. Russell Faber that the appropriation rebalancing project of the LSAs has been finalized. Adjustments were done in accordance with Section 2109 of Act 9A of 2012. This project was done in three phases that ultimately resulted in each LSA being provided with the following: (1) level funding; (2) a three-month budget reserve in the event of a state budget impasse; and (3) access to a restricted account to provide a source of funds from which to disburse leave payouts upon employee separation. Access to the restricted account is contingent upon the LSAs adopting a uniform leave policy. Copies of correspondence from Mr. Faber detailing the calculations and guidelines were provided to the Members for their perusal.

The Executive Director explained the next item on the agenda, which was a printing contract to be awarded for the publication of new cumulative supplements to the County Code, the First Class Township Code, the Second Class Township Code, and the Third Class City Code. Mr. Gasbarre stated that the Commission sent letters to approximately thirty printing organizations inviting them to the prebid meeting, which was held on January 25, 2013. Six firms responded by either attending the meeting or requesting that the bid specifications be sent to them. One organization submitted a bid for the printing of the supplements by the deadline, which was February 5, 2013.

The bid document from Graphtech revealed a final bid of \$11,232.18 for the printing of the four new cumulative supplements. After some discussion, the Members unanimously approved a motion by Representative Ross, which was seconded by Senator Erickson, to award the bid to Graphtech of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

It was announced by the Executive Director that the Third Class City Code recodification, which would reenact and amend Act 317 of 1931, was available for the Commission Senators' signatures prior to its reintroduction into the Senate. Senator Eichelberger agreed to be prime sponsor of the proposed bill for the 2013-2014 legislative session. The Third Class City Code was introduced in the 2011-2012 session as Senate Bill 874.

The Executive Director stated that letters were mailed to all 17 proposed participants on the Act 47 Task Force shown on the membership listing provided to the Members at last month's meeting. To date, six agencies have responded positively to the invitation. The deadline for appointment to the Task Force is February 28. After some discussion, the Commission Members unanimously decided on a motion by Representative Gingrich, which was seconded by Senator Erickson, to appoint the following Commission Members to the Task Force: Senator Eichelberger, Co-Chair; Senator Blake; Representative Ross, Co-Chair; and Representative Freeman. Invitations to attend the meetings will be extended to other interested legislators and pertinent committee staff.

Enacted in 1987, Act 47 is the Municipalities Financial Recovery Act that provides options and procedures to address financially distressed municipalities. The Act resulted from the work of a task force formed by the Commission in 1985 to study problems associated with distressed municipalities and to formulate a legislative proposal to alleviate those problems. It was noted by several Members at a prior business meeting that Act 47 has proven to be insufficiently effective in putting some distressed municipalities back on firm financial footing, and that a reexamination of the Act is necessary.

The Chairman welcomed Representative Mary Jo Daley to the Commission. Representative Daley replaces Representative Steven Santarsiero. Representative Daley will join Senators Robbins, Erickson, Eichelberger, Wozniak, and Blake, as well as Representatives Ross, Gingrich, Harper, and Freeman to the Commission for the 2013-2014 legislative session.

As the last order of business, the Executive Director encouraged attendance at the Commission's next business meeting on March 13, 2013. Reorganization of the Commission will be scheduled at that March meeting keeping in accordance with law. Also at that meeting, the Members will be presented with the Commission's 2013-2014 legislative package for possible reintroduction into the Senate of Pennsylvania and the House of Representative. Additionally, a review of the 2012 resolutions adopted at the annual conference of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania is anticipated.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

ATTESTED: _____
February 19, 2013