

**IN-PERSON AND LIVESTREAM BUSINESS MEETING OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION**

**Wednesday, February 22, 2023**

The meeting of the Local Government Commission (Commission) was called to order by Senator Scott E. Hutchinson at 9:05 a.m. in Room 515 Irvis Office Building with the following Commission Members, staff and guests participating in-person and remotely:

**MEMBERS**

**Senator Scott E. Hutchinson, Chair  
Senator Rosemary M. Brown  
Senator Judith L. Schwank  
Representative Robert Freeman  
Representative Christine Sappey  
Representative R. Lee James  
Representative Dan Moul  
The Honorable Jerry Knowles**

**STAFF**

**David A. Greene, Executive Director  
Kristopher J. Gazsi, Assistant Director  
Martin A. Toth, Associate Legal Counsel  
Julia Frey, Research Analyst  
Jaren Bittinger, Research Analyst  
Karen S. Bear, Executive Assistant  
Sonya I. Ebersole, Fiscal Administrator**

**GUESTS**

**Justin Leventry, Senator Hutchinson's Office  
Matthew Deegan, Senator Hutchinson's Office  
Tess Hoffert, Senator Schwank's Office  
Sam Arnold, Senator Kearney's Office  
Bre Medevich, Representative Freeman's Office  
Shamyra Watkins, Senator Hughes' Office  
Sue Morgan, Representative Otten's Office  
Mary Yoder, Senate Local Government Committee (R)  
Jon Castelli, House Local Government Committee (D)  
Ariana Genna, Intern, House Local Government Committee (D)  
Rob Gaertner, House Local Government Committee (R)  
Lindsay Ewing, House Local Government Committee (R)  
Erin O'Dea, House Democratic Legislative Policy and Research Office  
Eric Jespersen, Pennsylvania State Geospatial Coordinating Board  
Frank Mazza, County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania  
Larry Gerrity, Pennsylvania Fraternal Order of Police  
Jennie Shade, Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association  
Richard Fox, Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association  
Amy Sturges, Pennsylvania Municipal League**

**IN-PERSON AND LIVESTREAM BUSINESS MEETING OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION**

Page 2 – February 22, 2023

Kaitlin Errickson, Pennsylvania Municipal League  
Ed Troxell, Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs  
Ron Grutza, Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs  
A. C. Stickel, Pennsylvania State Association of Elected County Officials  
Joe Gerdes, Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors  
Barb Huesken, Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association  
Clint Cullison, Greenlee Partners

The Executive Director made a statement that the in-person and virtual meeting was being recorded and conducted with both Member and Commission staff participation. On Wednesday, February 15, 2023, notice of the meeting was posted on the Senate of Pennsylvania committee meeting page, and on Thursday, February 16, 2023, to the House of Representatives committee meeting page through the Legislative Data Processing Center. The meeting agenda was posted on the Commission's website, [www.lgc.state.pa.us](http://www.lgc.state.pa.us), on Friday, February 17, 2023, and outside of the Commission's office located at 506 Irvis Office Building. Any questions on agenda items for consideration by the Commission were addressed during the meeting. After adjournment, the recording of the meeting will be posted on the Commission's website at [www.lgc.state.pa.us](http://www.lgc.state.pa.us).

As the first order of business, Chairman Hutchinson welcomed newly appointed Commission Member Senator Rosemary Brown to today's meeting. Senator Brown, who chairs the Senate Local Government Committee, was appointed on February 6, 2023, to serve on the Commission for the 2023-2024 legislative session. To date, Commission Member reappointments of Senators Hutchinson and Dush and Representatives James and Moul have been made. Chairman Hutchinson thanked outgoing Commission Member Senator Judy Ward for her service to the Commission during the 2019-2020 and 2021-2022 legislative sessions.

The Members reviewed the minutes of the January 25, 2023, business meeting, which were unanimously approved on a motion by Senator Schwank and a second by Representative Freeman. The financial reports for the month of January 2023 were presented, and an explanation was given by the Executive Director. The financial reports were unanimously approved on a motion by the Honorable Knowles and a second by Representative Freeman.

As mentioned at last month's meeting, the Commission Members were provided an electronic draft of the Commission's new report, *Drawing Lines: Variance in Municipal Boundary Maps, (Report)*. To increase efficiency in geospatial policy and technology, develop more uniform data standards, and promote better coordination among state agencies, the General Assembly passed Act 178 of 2014 to create the Pennsylvania State Geospatial Coordinating Board, otherwise known as the GeoBoard. The GeoBoard has divided itself into numerous task forces authorized by statute to address a variety of issues related to geospatial policy. These include a Service Delivery Task Force, Governance Task Force, and Data Program Task Force. Within the Data Program Task Force lies the Civic Boundary Working Group, which actively deals with geospatial data as it relates to civic boundaries. Commission Assistant Director Kris Gazsi serves as a member of the Civic Boundary Working Group, which comprises members representing public and private stakeholders, such as Keystone GIS, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, County GIS Professionals,

**IN-PERSON AND LIVESTREAM BUSINESS MEETING OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION**

Page 3 – February 22, 2023

the Pennsylvania Society of Land Surveyors, and PA One Call System. The *Report* is a product of many hours of analysis on boundary case studies to address boundary disputes. The *Report* concludes that policymakers, private industry, and the members of the public at large would benefit from one uniform boundary defining the contours of all communities in the Commonwealth. Relying on such an authoritative data set would improve service delivery, reduce errors, and increase public confidence. New opportunities exist and will continue to emerge to deliver public and private services more efficiently and accurately by using technologies like digital mapping. Along the way, challenges will continue to be posed by lost or unclear records and errors in transcription. Interagency and intergovernmental cooperation provide an opportunity to improve these challenges. Tools like the Boundary and Annexation Survey agreement may facilitate greater coordination with Federal officials, while statutory changes and data clearinghouses in the Commonwealth may encourage greater cooperation between the Commonwealth and its political subdivisions. In every case, improvement will take time and rely on the commitment of policy makers and public servants to utilize the tools available. After a brief discussion, the Members unanimously approved on a motion by Representative Freeman and a second by Senator Schwank to the distribution of the *Report* to all Members of the General Assembly and other interested parties. The Assistant Director thanked Eric Jespersen, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania State Geospatial Coordinating Board, and Commission Research Analysts Julia Frey and Jaren Bittinger for their assistance in the *Report's* completion. Chairman Hutchinson expressed his great appreciation to the staff, Committee, and partners that contributed to the compilation of the *Report*. The *Report* may be found on the Commission's website, [www.lgc.state.pa.us](http://www.lgc.state.pa.us).

The third annual Local Government Commission Symposium has been slated for Thursday, October 19, 2023. This year's Symposium will consist of two morning sessions and two afternoon sessions. More information will be provided in the next few months.

The Director announced that approximately 8,500 copies of Cumulative Supplement #1 to the Second Class Township Code have been mailed directly to second class townships in the Commonwealth. All amendments to the Second Class Township Code enacted during the 2021-22 legislative session are contained in the supplement. Additional copies may be requested by sending an e-mail to the Commission at [lgc@palegislature.us](mailto:lgc@palegislature.us).

A legal intern will join the Commission staff during the spring semester of 2023. The legal intern, who is a student at Widener Law School, will be charged with performing a survey of the state local fiscal impact statement procedures in other states.

Once the full complement of ten Commission Members for the 2023-2024 legislative session is achieved, the Commission plans to advance its legislative package. The Director anticipates that approximately 15 pieces of legislation are ready for the Members' review and introduction.

The Director stated that he has been invited to testify at the Senate Majority Policy Committee meeting on March 2, 2023. The public hearing on the Sterling Act and the impact of suburban communities is being conducted in Langhorne, Pennsylvania.

**IN-PERSON AND LIVESTREAM BUSINESS MEETING OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
COMMISSION**

**Page 4 – February 22, 2023**

**The next Commission business meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 22, at 9:00 a.m. in 515 Irvis Office Building.**

**The meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.**

**ATTESTED: \_\_\_\_\_  
February 24, 2023**