

MEETING OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

The reorganizational meeting of the Local Government Commission was called to order by Senator Joseph B. Scarnati, III, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, at 8:45 a.m. in Room 14 East Wing-Main Capitol Building, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, with the following individuals present:

Senator Joseph B. Scarnati, III, Presiding Officer

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
Kyle Mullins, Senator Blake's Office
Christine Goldbeck, House Republican Research Office
Wanda Snader, House Republican Research Office
Rob Gaertner, House Republican Research Office
Ed Troxell, PA State Association of Boroughs
Ron Grutza, PA State Association of Boroughs
Doug Hill, County Commissioners Association of PA
Lisa Schaefer, County Commissioners Association of PA**

The President Pro Tempore of the Senate opened the floor for nominations for the position of Chairman of the Commission. Senator Robbins nominated Senator Eichelberger for Chairman, and Senator Erickson seconded the nomination. Senator Scarnati moved that nominations for the position of Chairman be closed. This motion carried unanimously, and Senator Eichelberger was elected Chairman of the Commission by a unanimous vote. Senator Scarnati then opened the floor for nominations for the position of First Vice-Chairman of the Commission. Representative Gingrich nominated Representative Ross for the position of First Vice-Chairman, and Representative Harper seconded the nomination. Senator Scarnati moved that nominations for the position of First Vice-Chairman be closed. This motion carried unanimously, and Representative Ross was elected unanimously as First Vice-Chairman of the Local Government Commission. Senator Scarnati then moved that nominations for the position of Second Vice-Chairman be opened. Senator Robbins nominated Senator Wozniak for the position of Second Vice-Chairman, and Representative Ross seconded the nomination. Senator Scarnati moved that nominations for the position of Second Vice-Chairman be closed. This motion carried unanimously, and Senator Wozniak was elected Second Vice-Chairman by a unanimous vote.

At this point in the meeting, Senator Eichelberger resumed the chair and the business meeting of the Local Government Commission convened at 8:50 a.m.

As the first order of business, the Members discussed the minutes of the February 13, 2013, business meeting, which were unanimously approved on a motion by

Representative Ross and a second by Senator Erickson. The financial report for the month of February 2013 was presented, and a detailed explanation was given by the Executive Director. The financial report was unanimously approved on a motion by Representative Gingrich and a second by Senator Erickson.

At this point in the meeting, the Members resolved themselves into a brief Executive Session to confer about a personnel matter. At the conclusion of the Executive Session, the Members voted unanimously on a motion by Representative Ross and a second by Senator Erickson to authorize the Commission to tender an offer of employment to Kristopher Gazsi for the position of Associate Legal Counsel for the Local Government Commission. The Members also empowered the Director to offer employment to the second candidate in the event that Mr. Gazsi declines the offer of employment.

The Commission's proposed 2013-2014 legislative package was presented to the Members. Twelve Commission-sponsored bills were signed into law by the Governor in the 2011-2012 legislative session. The remaining bills were again presented to the Members for possible reintroduction. A short discussion among the Members occurred after each bill was briefly explained by the Executive Director. It was decided that five bills would be introduced into both the Senate and House chambers and that five bills would be redrafted and presented to the Members prior to their reintroduction. The 2013-2014 legislative package will be presented to the Members for final approval at an upcoming business meeting.

Resolutions adopted at CCAP's 2012 annual convention were discussed by the Commission Members. The dispositions are as follows:

- Resolution No. 3 - Refer resolution to the County Code Revision Committee.**
- Resolution No. 4 - Tabled.**
- Resolution No. 5 - Tabled.**
- Resolution No. 9 - Staff was directed to draft legislation for possible introduction.**
- Resolution No. A4 - Tabled.**

The Executive Director stated that letters were mailed to all 17 proposed participants on the Act 47 Municipalities Financial Recovery Task Force shown on the membership listing provided to the Members at January's meeting. To date, 15 agencies have responded positively to the invitation. The deadline for appointment to the Task Force was February 28. The Director plans to meet with Act 47 Task Force Co-Chairmen Senator Eichelberger and Representative Ross after today's business meeting to coordinate a date for the initial convening of the Act 47 Task Force. Invitations to attend the meetings will be extended to other interested legislators and pertinent committee staff, as well.

As the last order of business, the Executive Director reminded the Members of the March 14, 2013, meeting with the local government associations. The meeting will convene at 11:00 a.m. in the Senate Majority Caucus Room.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

**ATTESTED: _____
March 14, 2013**