

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

**Wednesday, March 23, 2022**

The meeting of the Local Government Commission (Commission) was called to order by Senator Scott E. Hutchinson at 9:00 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 Judy Ward  
Senator Cris Dush  
Senator Judith L. Schwank  
Senator Timothy P. Kearney  
Representative R. Lee James  
Representative Jerry Knowles  
Representative Robert Freeman**

**STAFF**

**David A. Greene, Executive Director  
Kristopher J. Gazsi, Assistant Director  
Martin A. Toth, Associate Legal Counsel  
Danette H. Magee, Senior Research Analyst  
Julia Frey, 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  
Nathan Akers, Senator Judy Ward's Office  
Matt Maniskas, Senator Schwank's Office  
Sam Arnold, Senator Kearney's Office  
Bre Medevich, Representative Freeman's Office  
Tyler Arkatin, Representative Sappey's Office  
Mary Yoder, Senate Local Government Committee (R)  
Kyle Sheaffer, House Local Government Committee (R)  
Evelyn Chianelli, Department of Community and Economic Development  
Ashley White, County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania  
Brianna Pettit, County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania  
Barbara Huesken, Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association  
Ron Grutza, Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs  
Joe Gerdes, Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors  
William Hobbs, III**

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At 9:02 a.m. the Members resolved themselves into Executive Session to confer about personnel matters involving the hiring of a Research Analyst. At 9:15 a.m. the Members returned to public session.

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 Tuesday, March 15, 2022, notice of the meeting was posted on the committee meeting pages of the Senate of Pennsylvania and the House of Representatives 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 Monday, March 21, 2022, 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 a result of the Executive Session, the Members voted unanimously on a motion by Senator Dush and a second by Senator Kearney to tender an offer of employment to Jaren Bittinger as the new Commission Research Analyst at a starting salary of \$47,000 a year with an adjustment of an additional \$1,000 following a satisfactory six-month evaluation. The Members congratulated Mr. Bittinger on his new position.

The Members reviewed the minutes of the February 9, 2022, business meeting, which were unanimously approved on a motion by Senator Kearney and a second by Representative Freeman. The financial reports for the month of February 2022 were presented, and an explanation was given by the Executive Director. The financial reports were unanimously approved on a motion by Representative Knowles and a second by Senator Ward.

Chairman Hutchinson and Vice-Chairman James presented Senate and House Citations to Senior Research Analyst Danette Magee for her 35+ years of service to the Commission. Ms. Magee began her career with the Local Government Commission as a Research Analyst on June 9, 1986, and she is retiring from the position of Senior Research Analyst effective March 31, 2022. In addition to providing guidance on thousands of constituent and member inquiries, she was the primary editor and custodian of many notable work products, including "The Legislator's Municipal Deskbook," and she assisted in the preparation of proofs of the various municipal codes printed by the Commission. Over the course of her career, Ms. Magee represented the Commission on numerous committees and task forces, including the 2017-2018 Assessment Reform Task Force, which focused on the modernization, efficiency, transparency and fairness of the property assessment process in Pennsylvania, and she was a principal drafter and editor of the task force's work products. Ms. Magee further served on the Assessors' Association of Pennsylvania (AAP) Assessment Reform Committee and has volunteered her time writing and teaching assessment law. In honor of all her work in the field of tax assessment, Ms. Magee was the recipient of the 2019 County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania Friend of County Government Award; the 2016, 2018 and 2019 AAP President's Special Appreciation Award; and the Michael M. Chuddy Award for Best Article in the AAP Journal on Assessment Administration. The Commission Members and staff wished Ms. Magee congratulations upon her well-deserved retirement. Ms. Magee thanked the Members for their support and expressed her appreciation to her coworkers for whom she will miss.

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Additionally, Ms. Magee was presented with a citation from Governor Tom Wolf expressing his well wishes to Ms. Magee on her retirement and thanking her for her many years of exemplary service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The Executive Director reviewed the status of the Commission-sponsored bills and alerted the Members that co-sponsorship memos for the State Planning Board amendment would be forthcoming.

Members and their staffs were invited to attend a modest retirement luncheon to be held in honor of Ms. Magee by the Commission staff on Wednesday, March 30, 2022, outside of Room 506 Irvis Office Building. The Executive Director encouraged the Members to visit and extend their best wishes to Ms. Magee in person.

As the last order of business, the Executive Director announced that the next business meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2022, in Room 515 Irvis Office Building at 9:00 a.m. The April meeting will be conducted in-person.

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 a.m.

ATTESTED: \_\_\_\_\_  
March 31, 2022