

## **MEETING OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION**

**Wednesday, May 10, 2017**

The meeting of the Local Government Commission was called to order by Senator John Eichelberger, Jr., at 8:50 a.m. in Room 14 East Wing–Main Capitol Building, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, with the following individuals present:

### **MEMBERS**

**Senator John H. Eichelberger, Jr., Chair  
Senator Scott E. Hutchinson  
Senator Judith L. Schwank  
Representative Kate Harper  
Representative Robert Freeman  
Representative Mary Jo Daley**

### **STAFF**

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

### **GUESTS**

**Lee Derr, Senator Eichelberger's Office  
Justin Leventry, Senator Hutchinson's Office  
Nathan Akers, Senator Hutchinson's Office  
William Casey, Senator Schwank's Office  
Brianna Medevich, Representative Freeman's Office  
Rob Gaertner, House Local Government Committee (R)  
Lisa Schaefer, County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania  
Joshua Eisner, County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania  
Amy Sturges, Pennsylvania Municipal League  
Karey Molnar, Pennsylvania Municipal League  
Elam Herr, Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors**

As the first order of business, the Members discussed the minutes of the April 19, 2017, business meeting, which were unanimously approved on a motion by Senator Schwank and a second by Senator Hutchinson. The financial report for the month of April 2017 was presented, and a detailed explanation was given by the Executive Director. The financial report was unanimously approved on a motion by Representative Freeman and a second by Senator Schwank.

The Executive Director announced that the Department of State (DOS) contacted the Commission staff with comments and suggestions to the proposed amendment to the Assessors Certification Act that would provide for basic course study, certification and continuing education of revaluation company personnel. The ideas submitted by the DOS will be incorporated into the recommended legislation and presented to the Commission Members for their review at the next business meeting. The proposed amendment is a product of the Commission's ongoing Assessment Reform Task Force.

Municipal association resolutions were next on the item to be discussed. The Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs requested that the Commission sponsor legislation that would amend the Borough Code, Third Class City Code, First Class Township Code and Act 253 of 1929 (Incorporated Towns) to provide for concise publication of annual financial reporting information. These proposals are consistent with Act 14 of 2016, which amended the Second Class Township Code by only requiring a municipality to advertise basic financial information in a newspaper of general circulation. The advertisement must also include a reference to the place in the municipality where the financial statements and the auditor’s report may be examined. These changes would lead to cost savings for the taxpayers without sacrificing transparency. After a brief discussion, the Members unanimously agreed on a motion by Representative Harper and a second by Senator Schwank to draft the appropriate legislation. Senator Hutchinson and Representative Harper will prime sponsor the three bill package for introduction into their respective chambers.

Elam Herr, representing the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors, requested the Commission Members consider amending Section 3102(h) of the Second Class Township Code to authorize the purchase of equipment and other personal property from a volunteer fire company, ambulance service or rescue squad without going through the competitive bidding process. Current language only refers to purchases from a public utility, municipal corporation, county, school district, municipal authority, council of government or federal or state government. After a brief discussion, the Commission Members voted unanimously on a motion by Representative Daley and a second by Senator Schwank to direct Commission staff to draft language that would be part of a four bill package, which would also amend the First Class Township Code, the Third Class City Code, the Borough Code and Act 34 of 1953 (Incorporated Towns). The draft amendatory language will be presented to the Members for review at the next business meeting.

At 9:05 a.m. the Chairman announced that the Members would resolve into executive session for the purpose of discussing the Executive Director’s performance evaluation and additional personnel matters related to the budget. At 9:24 a.m. the Members returned to public session. The Members unanimously voted on a motion by Representative Harper and a second by Representative Freeman to grant the Executive Director a satisfactory rating on his performance evaluation and extend his tenure with the Commission by one year, budget permitting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

ATTESTED: \_\_\_\_\_  
May 23, 2017