

**MEETING OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION**

**Wednesday, June 10, 2015**

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The meeting of the Local Government Commission was called to order by Senator John Eichelberger, Jr., at 8:45 a.m. in 14 East Wing–Main Capitol Building, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, with the following individuals present:

**MEMBERS**

**Senator John H. Eichelberger, Jr., Chairman**  
**Senator Thomas J. McGarrigle**  
**Senator Scott E. Hutchinson**  
**Representative Chris Ross**  
**Representative Mauree Gingrich**  
**Representative Kate Harper**  
**Representative Robert Freeman**  
**Representative Mary Jo Daley**

**STAFF**

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

**GUESTS**

**Lee Derr, Senator Eichelberger's Office**  
**Justin Leventry, Senator Hutchinson's Office**  
**Nathan Akers, Senator Hutchinson's Office**  
**Virginia Gregory, Representative Ross' Office**  
**Wanda Snader, House Republican Research Office**  
**Rob Gaertner, House Republican Research Office**  
**Lisa Schaefer, County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania**  
**Amy Sturges, Pennsylvania Municipal League**  
**Karey Molnar, Pennsylvania Municipal League**  
**Ed Troxell, Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs**  
**Ron Grutza, Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs**

As the first order of business, the Members discussed the minutes of the May 13, 2015, business meeting, which were unanimously approved on a motion by Representative Ross and a second by Senator Hutchinson. The financial report for the month of May 2015 was presented, and a detailed explanation was given by the Executive Director. The financial report was unanimously approved on a motion by Representative Ross and a second by Senator McGarrigle.

The Executive Director requested the Members' approval to transfer the remaining funds of the Commission's fiscal year (FY) 2012-13 general appropriation to the Commission's FY 2014-15 general appropriation fund. The transfer of \$65,570.61 will take place after July 1, thereby enabling the Commission to meet payroll and expenses if there is a delay in the approval of the Commonwealth's FY 2015-16 budget. Also, the Executive Director requested the Members' pre-approval to transfer in September \$44,000 from the Commission Code Account to the Commission's general account to partially compensate the position of Codes Coordinator-Bookkeeper in the event the Commonwealth's FY 2015-16 budget is not passed. After a brief discussion, the Members unanimously approved the requests on a motion by Representative Ross and a second by Representative Freeman.

Commission Members were presented with the legislation as discussed at last month's business meeting that would amend Section 1980.2 of the Second Class County Code in a similar manner to that of Title 53, Chapter 88, of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, which would clarify that "anti-windfall" tax rate reductions apply to tax levies established by referendum. The amendment would provide appropriate remedies to address the impacts of county reassessments on various tax rates and/or millages established by second class counties as a result of referendum. The legislation will be introduced into the Senate of Pennsylvania and the House of Representatives.

The Executive Director reported that House Bill 914, Printer’s Number 1127, is to be reconsidered at the June 17, 2015, meeting of the House Local Government Committee. House Bill 914 is a Commission bill that amends the Sewage Facilities Act (Act 537 of 1966). A proposed amendment to the bill will establish parameters for a permit-exempt septic system inspection fee.

Lisa Schaefer, representing the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP), gave a brief review of House Bill 912, Printer’s Number 1106, and Senate Bill 785, Printer’s Number 945. The companion bills are Commission-sponsored bills that add to the Consolidated County Assessment Law a clarifying amendment regarding the assessment of buildings. Ms. Schaefer reported that CCAP met with the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau to address its concerns relating to the assessment of agricultural buildings and was able to reach a consensus regarding taxing thresholds. House Bill 912 is to be considered by the House Local Government Committee at its June 17, 2015, meeting, and Senate Bill 785 currently resides in the Senate Local Government Committee.

The Executive Director announced that the Commission’s website contract ends in a few months at which time the Commission’s website operations will be transferred to the Legislative Data Processing Center (LDPC). By shifting the management of the Commission’s website to LDPC, an annual savings of approximately \$2,000 will be realized. Also, a request to post the summaries of Commission-sponsored bills after their introduction was received. With the new website that is being developed by LDPC, the Commission will be able to accommodate that request.

The Executive Director reported that he and Assistant Director-Legal Counsel David Greene were invited to an informational meeting by Jen Reiner, Director of the Governor’s Office of Transformation, Innovation, Management and Efficiency, on Friday, June 19. The meeting includes introductions and discussions about citizen engagement.

As the last order of business, the Executive Director apprised the Members that the Commission’s July 8, 2015, business meeting will be held at 8:45 a.m. in Room 14 East Wing-Main Capitol Building if the Legislature is in session. If there are any alterations to the session schedule, the Members will be notified of any changes to the Commission’s July business meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

ATTESTED: \_\_\_\_\_  
June 11, 2015