

**MEETING OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION**

**Wednesday, September 24, 2014**

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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 Room 14 East Wing-Main Capitol Building, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, with the following individuals present:

**MEMBERS**

**Senator John H. Eichelberger, Jr., Chairman  
Senator Robert D. Robbins  
Senator Edwin B. Erickson  
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  
Kristopher Gazsi, Associate Legal Counsel  
Karen S. Bear, Secretary**

**GUESTS**

**Lee Derr, Senator Eichelberger's Office  
Chris Yniquez, Senator Robbins' Office  
Wanda Snader, House Republican Research Office  
Rob Gaertner, House Republican Research Office  
Lisa Schaeffer, County Commissioners Association of PA  
Amy Sturges, PA Municipal League  
Karey Molnar, PA Municipal League  
Ed Troxell, PA State Association of Boroughs  
Ron Grutza, PA State Association of Boroughs  
Joe Regan, Fraternal Order of Police**

As the first order of business, the Members discussed the minutes of the July 8, 2014, business meeting, which were unanimously approved on a motion by Senator Erickson and a second by Representative Ross. The financial reports for the months of July and August 2014 were presented, and a detailed explanation was given by the Executive Director. The financial reports were unanimously approved on a motion by Representative Ross and a second by Senator Erickson.

The Executive Director stated that he and the legal staff of the Local Government Commission met with representatives of the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs in August to review draft language that would amend Title 8 (Borough Code) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes relating to standards that would be considered by borough council and shade tree commissions when a shade tree ordinance is adopted or amended. An evaluation of the comments submitted by Dr. Bill Elmendorf from The Pennsylvania State University Cooperative Extension along with alterations to the original proposal offered by Commission Legal Counsel Dave Greene were completed. The Members reviewed the changes and unanimously agreed to include the legislation in the Commission's legislative package for the 2015-2016 legislative session. This language is in response to the March 19, 2014, request from Representative Mark Mustio who seeks an amendment to the Borough Code as it relates to the decisions by borough councils and shade tree commissions. Representative Mustio will be advised of the Commission Members' decision to introduce the legislation in the next session.

The Members unanimously approved on a motion by Representative Ross and a second by Representative Gingrich to approve the Title 8 printing contract for 2014. The contract includes the printing, packaging and distribution of Title 8 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes (Borough Code) in accordance with the specifications, terms and conditions of the Pennsylvania Legislative Reference Bureau. The contract stipulates that 4,600 loose leaf copies of Title 8 will be

printed with 3,840 of those copies being distributed to the 957 boroughs in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Each borough will receive four copies along with instructions on how to obtain more copies, if needed. The overall cost to print, package and distribute 4,600 copies of Title 8 is \$15,267.97, not including postage which is directly reimbursable based upon the actual cost of mailing to boroughs.

The printing and distribution of supplements to the County Code, First Class Township Code and Second Class Township Code was the next item on the agenda for discussion. The Members discussed at length the issues related to the printing and distribution of new code supplements. As noted, all levels of government are saving taxpayer money by restricting the availability of publications and information to electronic access only. The Director explained that the Commission has a large number of permanent editions of the previously mentioned codes in stock and recommended that printing and mailing of cumulative supplements to the municipal codes be done for this session and possibly next session until the supply of permanent editions is exhausted. The projected cost of printing updated supplements to the County Code, First Class Township Code and the Second Class Township Code would be about \$25,000. Moreover, it was mentioned that past data obtained from the Department of Community and Economic Development has revealed that approximately 400 municipalities still lack electronic access. The Members agreed on a motion by Representative Ross and a second by Representative Harper to allow the Commission to print and mail the customary number of cumulative supplements to the County Code, First Class Township Code and Second Township Code to the appropriate municipalities. Also, a notice is to be sent along with the supplements to the municipalities explaining how particular codes may be obtained electronically and that the printing of the codes and/or supplements will likely end in the future as the Commission moves to electronic publishing.

The Director reported that he has received the cost information from the Department of General Services (DGS) regarding the warehouse lease contract for fiscal year 2014-15. The net amount due for the billing cycle is \$1,772.00, which is an \$80 decrease from the previous fiscal year. The Members unanimously agreed on a motion by Senator Erickson and a second by Representative Ross to issue payment to DGS for the storage of municipal codes and supplements for fiscal year 2014-15.

The Director announced that the Commission's next monthly business meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 8, 2014. The meeting will be held in 39 East Wing-Main Capitol Building and commence at 8:45 a.m. Commission Members' Capitol and district offices will be notified accordingly. At that meeting, the Commission's budget request for fiscal year 2015-2016 will be reviewed and the Commission's 5-year report will be submitted to the Members for their approval. At Representative Ross' behest in 2004, the Commission has been releasing 5-year reports to all Members of the General Assembly. The report contains all of the Commission's activities and prospective projects.

As the last order of business, the Director stated that the Commission's quarterly meeting with the local government associations is scheduled for Thursday, September 25, 2014, in the Senate Majority Caucus Room. The meeting will begin at 11:00 a.m. Attendance by the Members is encouraged.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

ATTESTED: \_\_\_\_\_  
September 25, 2014