

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

**Wednesday, October 17, 2012**

The meeting of the Local Government Commission was called to order by Senator Robert D. Robbins at 8:45 a.m. in Room 14 East Wing-Main Capitol Building, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, with the following individuals present:

### **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 Robert L. Freeman  
Representative Steven J. Santarsiero**

### **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  
Luc Miron, Senator Blake's Office  
Kyle Mullins, Senator Blake's Office  
Christine Goldbeck, House Republican Research Office  
Ed Troxell, PA State Association of Boroughs  
Ron Grutza, PA State Association of Boroughs**

As the first order of business, the Members discussed the minutes of the September 25, 2012, business meeting, which were unanimously approved on a motion by Senator Erickson and a second by Representative Ross. The financial report for the month of September 2012 was presented, and relevant portions thereof were explained by the Executive Director. The financial report was unanimously approved on a motion by Representative Ross and a second by Representative Santarsiero.

There was nothing to report from the September 27, 2012, meeting with the local government associations. The minutes from that meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Senator Erickson and a second by Representative Ross.

The Members discussed the Commission budget requests for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013-2014. The Director noted that the aggregate Commission FY 2012-2013 budget request was increased by about \$50,000 or about 5 percent from the previous appropriation, bringing the total budget request amount for FY 2013-2014 to \$1,062,000.00. The Members unanimously agreed to the proposed FY 2013-2014 Commission budget request on a motion by Senator Erickson and a second by Representative Ross.

The Chairman then requested a motion to approve the Commission code account request for FY 2013-2014 in the amount of \$20,000.00. The Members unanimously agreed to the proposed FY 2013-2014 code account request on a motion by Representative Ross, which was seconded by Senator Erickson.

Local Government Commission meeting dates for 2013 were presented to the Members for their approval. After briefly reviewing the dates, the Members voted unanimously to meet on the following dates: January 30, 2013, monthly business meeting; February 13, 2013, monthly business meeting; March 13, 2013, monthly business meeting; March 14, 2013, meeting with local government associations; April 10, 2013, monthly business meeting; May 8, 2013, monthly business meeting; June 12, 2013, monthly business meeting; June 13, 2013, meeting with local government associations; July 10, 2013, monthly

business meeting; September 25, 2013, monthly business meeting; September 26, 2013, meeting with local government associations; October 9, 2013, monthly business meeting; November 20, 2013, monthly business meeting; December 11, 2013, monthly business meeting; and December 12, 2013, meeting with local government associations. Separately, office closing dates for 2013 were presented to the Members and unanimously approved.

The Members unanimously agreed to adjust the start time of the November 14, 2012, business meeting from 8:45 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. The meeting will remain in Room 14 East Wing-Main Capitol Building. The December 12, 2012, monthly business meeting will commence at 4:00 p.m. in the Commission's offices located in the Forum Place Building, 555 Walnut Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

For their review, each Member was provided with a copy of a contract with LexisNexis. LexisNexis is an electronic research system that provides an expansive collection of online content and tools needed to conduct in-depth legal research. The three-year contract—December 31, 2012, through January 31, 2016—is projected to save the Commission approximately \$300 a month. Currently, the Commission utilizes Westlaw as its on-line legal research tool. The Members agreed unanimously to change its on-line research vendor to Lexis Nexis on a motion by Senator Erickson and a second by Senator Eichelberger.

As the last order of business, the Director announced that an invitation was extended to two individuals from the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) to attend the November 14 business meeting. Clyde (Champ) Holman, Deputy Secretary of DCED, and Peter Zug, Deputy Director of the Governor's Center for Local Government Services of DCED, have contacted the Executive Director to garner the Commission's perspective and insight regarding Act 47. Enacted in 1987, Act 47 is the Municipalities Financial Recovery Act that provides options and procedures to address financially distressed municipalities.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

ATTESTED: \_\_\_\_\_  
October 18, 2012