

MEETING OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

Wednesday, October 17, 2018

The meeting of the Local Government Commission (LGC) 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., Chair
Senator Scott E. Hutchinson
Senator John P. Blake
Representative Kate Harper
Representative Warren Kampf
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
Brianna Medevich, Representative Freeman's Office
Rob Gaertner, House Local Government Committee (R)
Sarah Filauri, House Local Government Committee (R)
Amy Sturges, Pennsylvania Municipal League
Karey Molnar, Pennsylvania Municipal League
Ed Troxell, Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs
Ron Grutza, Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs
Hayden Rigo, Greenlee Partners

As the first order of business, the Members discussed the minutes of the September 26, 2018, business meeting which were unanimously approved on a motion by Senator Blake and a second by Senator Hutchinson. The financial reports for the month of September 2018 were presented, and a detailed explanation was given by the Executive Director. The financial reports were unanimously approved on a motion by Representative Daley and a second by Representative Harper.

At 8:50 a.m. the Chairman announced that the Members would resolve into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters related to the budget. At 9:15 a.m. the Members returned to public session. The Members unanimously voted on the following four items:

- (1) a motion by Senator Blake and a second by Representative Daley to award an 8 percent parity increase for each of the three attorneys beginning January 1, 2019;

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- (2) a motion by Senator Blake and a second by Senator Hutchinson to approve exceedance of the salary line item in the Commission-approved fiscal year (FY) 2018-2019 budget from \$548,440 to \$560,120, or by \$11,680 to allow for salary increases,
- (3) a motion by Representative Harper and a second by Senator Blake to approve a 3 percent merit increase for the Executive Director beginning January 1, 2019; and
- (4) a motion by Representative Daley and a second by Representative Kampf to approve to begin search for a Research Analyst in late 2018 for potential employment in mid-2019 upon Commission approval.

The Members discussed the Commission budget requests for FY 2019-2020. The Director noted that the aggregate proposed budget request for the Commission's general operating account varies from the FY 2018-2019 budget request, with the requested amount for FY 2019-2020 totaling \$1,165,900.00. The Director noted that the line items for Senate medical and prescription drug benefits were increased by 8.5 percent upon consulting with the Office of the Senate Chief Clerk. After reviewing the proposed budget, the Members unanimously agreed on a motion by Representative Harper and a second by Senator Hutchinson to the proposed FY 2019-2020 Commission budget request and to the payroll adjustments needed to reflect the exceedance of the salary line item in the FY 2018-2019 budget as discussed in item 3 above.

The Chairman then requested a motion to approve the Commission code account request for FY 2019-2020 in the amount of \$15,300.00, which is a significant decrease from the previous year's appropriation of \$23,000. The decrease is a result of the anticipated consolidation of the County Code revision (Senate Bill 1005, Printer's Number 2026), which is currently on the Governor's desk awaiting his signature, into Title 16 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes. Upon consolidation, the printing of Title 16 becomes the responsibility of the Legislative Reference Bureau, thus precluding the necessity for a separate printing of the County Code. The Members unanimously agreed to the proposed FY 2019-2020 code account request on a motion by Representative Daley, which was seconded by Senator Blake. The deadline for all FY 2019-2020 budget submissions to the Budget Secretary is October 31.

The Director presented the Members with a quote of \$7,498.00 from Dell Inc. for the purchase of five OptiPlex 5260 AIO replacement computers through state contract for Commission staff. Commission staff computers have become ineligible for service/warranty contracts due to age. The Members unanimously approved on a motion by Representative Harper and a second by Representative Kampf to procure five Dell computers.

In other business, the Director shared with the Members that the LGC received a thank you letter for participating in the Tuesday, September 25, 2018, public hearing regarding Act 47 and the city of Harrisburg. Testimony was given by the Director and Associate Legal Counsel Kris Gazsi. The public hearing was jointly held by the House Finance Committee, the House Local Government Committee and the House Urban Affairs Committee. Representative Harper noted that the subject and outcome of the hearing was House Bill 2557.

The Director and Representative Daley informed the Members that the LGC's assistance was requested by Representative Daley, Representative Jake Wheatley and Representative George Dunbar to aid in the House Finance Committee's select committee on taxation commencing in the 2019-2020 legislative session. The select committee, which is being chaired by Representative Dunbar, will review Commonwealth tax structure, and the Commission staff was viewed as having valuable expertise to contribute in the municipal tax component of the review.

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The Pennsylvania State Association of Elected County Officials has invited LGC Members and staff to its annual legislative appreciation dinner to be held on Tuesday, December 11, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. LGC Members will receive information about the dinner in the next few weeks.

As the last order of business, the Director announced that the next business meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 14, 2018, at 8:45 a.m. in Room 14 East Wing-Main Capitol Building. At that meeting, Associate Legal Counsel Kris Gazsi will make a presentation regarding the work that has been accomplished by the Act 47 Municipal Fiscal Distress Committee of the Commission.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

ATTESTED: _____
October 18, 2018