

MEETING OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

Wednesday, October 18, 2017

The meeting of the Local Government Commission was called to order by Senator John Eichelberger, Jr., at 8:55 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 Robert Freeman
Representative Mary Jo Daley

STAFF

Philip H. Klotz, Executive Director
David A. Greene, Assistant Director-Legal Counsel
Wanda Snader Dehan, Associate Legal Counsel
Karen S. Bear, Secretary

GUESTS

Lee Derr, Senator Eichelberger's Office
Justin Leventry, Senator Hutchinson's Office
Rob Gaertner, House Local Government Committee (R)
Lisa Schaefer, County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania
Elam Herr, Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

As the first order of business, the Members discussed the minutes of the September 27, 2017, business meeting, which were unanimously approved on a motion by Senator Hutchinson and a second by Representative Freeman. The financial report for the month of September 2017 was presented, and a detailed explanation was given by the Executive Director. The financial report was unanimously approved on a motion by Representative Harper and a second by Representative Daley.

The Members discussed the Commission budget requests for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-2019. The Director noted that the aggregate proposed budget request for the Commission's general operating account varies from the FY 2017-2018 budget request, with the requested amount for FY 2018-2019 totaling \$1,184,620.00. The Director noted that the line items for Senate medical and prescription drug benefits were increased by 20 percent upon consulting with the Office of the Senate Chief Clerk. After reviewing the proposed budget, the Members recommended that the Commission include in the budget the purchase of two replacement computers a year for three years as opposed to the original plan of acquiring one substitute computer a year for seven years. Currently, the Commission staff's computers are now ineligible for service/warranty contracts due to age. The Director also volunteered to investigate the cost of workers' compensation insurance through the State Workers Insurance Fund (SWIF), which is 1.5 percent of gross

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salaries. SWIF operates as an enterprise fund within the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry and provides a source of workers' compensation insurance for the employers and workers of Pennsylvania. At the end of the discussion, the Members unanimously agreed to the proposed FY 2018-2019 Commission budget request on a motion by Representative Kampf and a second by Representative Freeman, subject to the modified plan of purchasing two new computers.

The Chairman then requested a motion to approve the Commission code account request for FY 2018-2019 in the amount of \$19,000.00. The Members unanimously agreed to the proposed FY 2018-2019 code account request on a motion by Representative Daley, which was seconded by Representative Harper. The deadline for all FY 2018-2019 budget submissions to the Budget Secretary is October 31.

The Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) presented to the Commission Members the resolutions adopted at PSATS' 2017 annual fall convention. Wanda Snader Dehan, Commission Associate Legal Counsel, reported that she researched PSATS Resolution 20 that seeks to implement a statewide ban on the ignition and launch of sky lanterns to reduce the risk of fires caused by the open flames on the devices. The devices can travel more than a mile when airborne and are widely recognized as a fire hazard. To date, 29 states have enacted bans on sky lanterns. Ms. Snader Dehan proffered that she contacted Pennsylvania State Fire Commissioner Tim Solobay who stated that he was unaware of any major issues caused by the devices in Pennsylvania, but who reached out to the Governor's policy office for thoughts on the idea of regulating sky lanterns. Commission Members concluded not to take any action on the resolution.

A review of specifications for two new Dell computer servers was next on the agenda for discussion. The Commission's main server and backup server are both 7 years old, and it is the recommendation of the Legislative Data Processing Center (LDPC) that both servers be replaced. LDPC obtained a quote of \$8,040 from KST Data, Inc. to replace the Commission's current computer servers. The Commission Members unanimously agreed on a motion by Senator Hutchinson and a second by Senator Blake to purchase the new servers.

As the last order of business, the Director announced that the next Commission business meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 15, 2017, at 8:45 a.m. in Room 14 East Wing-Main Capitol Building. Members' attendance is encouraged for this meeting since Assessment Reform Task Force and revised County Code legislation will be on the agenda for the Members' approval and introduction.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

ATTESTED: _____
October 24, 2017