

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

**Wednesday, October 21, 2015**

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The meeting of the Local Government Commission was called to order by Senator John Eichelberger, Jr., at 8:50 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**  
**Senator John P. Blake**  
**Representative Chris Ross**  
**Representative Mauree Gingrich**  
**Representative Kate Harper**  
**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**  
**Nathan Akers, Senator Hutchinson's Office**  
**Luc Miron, Senator Blake's Office**  
**Kyle Mullins, Senator Blake's Office**  
**John Fulton, Representative Freeman's Office**  
**Christine Goldbeck, House Republican Research 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**  
**Carrie Boyer, constituent of Representative Gingrich**

As the first order of business, the Members discussed the minutes of the September 30, 2015, business meeting, which were unanimously approved on a motion by Representative Ross and a second by Senator McGarrigle. The financial report for the month of September 2015 was presented, and a detailed explanation was given by the Executive Director. Representative Harper asked for an explanation of a line item referencing approved transfers from the code account. The Executive Director explained that the amount reflected two separate transfer approvals, the first permanent and the second temporary, authorized by the Commission for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014-

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15. The financial report was unanimously approved on a motion by Representative Ross and a second by Representative Gingrich. At the request of the Executive Director, the Members unanimously approved a motion by Representative Ross and a second by Senator McGarrigle to utilize the Commission's three-month reserve fund beginning in November to meet the Commission's payroll and expense obligations. The Commission Members will receive monthly updates on the Commission's fiscal health during the continuation of the budget impasse.

The Members discussed the Commission budget requests for FY 2016-2017. The Director noted that the aggregate proposed budget request is slightly higher than the FY 2015-2016 budget request, with the requested amount for FY 2016-2017 totaling \$1,115,587.00. The Director attributed the increase primarily to greater medical benefit and pension costs. The Members unanimously agreed to the proposed FY 2016-2017 Commission budget request on a motion by Representative Ross and a second by Senator McGarrigle.

The Chairman then requested a motion to approve the Commission code account request for FY 2016-2017 in the amount of \$22,830.00. The Members unanimously agreed to the proposed FY 2016-2017 code account request on a motion by Representative Ross, which was seconded by Representative McGarrigle. The deadline for all FY 2016-2017 budget submissions to the Budget Secretary is October 31.

During the summer, the Commission staff met and formulated a strategic plan for the Commission. The strategic plan will be revisited annually to determine if the Commission is realizing its goals and objectives and to expand upon any items the Commission deems appropriate. The Members studied a chart displaying the results of the strategic planning session while the Executive Director outlined some of the short- and long-term goals proposed by the staff. Some of the elements included pursuing electronic circulation of Commission bills for sponsorship, updating the *Pennsylvania Legislator's Municipal Deskbook* every two years, recodifying the First Class Township Code, and revisiting the search for no cost office space within the Capitol complex. The Members unanimously agreed that this matter should be placed on the November 18 business meeting agenda so that they have ample time to review the plan and make any recommendations.

Prior to the meeting's conclusion, Representative Gingrich offered special recognition and appreciation for the Member and constituent service provided by Commission staff, as recognized by her staff.

As the last order of business, the Executive Director apprised the Members that the Commission's November 18, 2015, business meeting will be held at 8:45 a.m. in Room 14 East Wing-Main Capitol Building. At that meeting, the Members will review resolutions submitted by the municipal associations.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

ATTESTED: \_\_\_\_\_  
October 26, 2015