

LIVESTREAM MEETING OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

Wednesday, October 21, 2020

The livestream meeting of the Local Government Commission (Commission) was called to order by Senator Scott Hutchinson at 9:10 a.m. with the following Commission Members, staff and guests participating:

MEMBERS

Senator Scott E. Hutchinson, Chair
Senator Judy Ward
Senator Timothy P. Kearney
Representative R. Lee James
Representative Dan Moul
Representative Robert Freeman
Representative Christina D. Sappey

STAFF

David A. Greene, Executive Director
Kristopher J. Gazsi, Assistant Director
Wanda S. Dehan, Legal Counsel
Danette H. Magee, Senior Research Analyst
Julia E. Frey, Research Analyst
Karen S. Bear, Executive Assistant
Sonya I. Ebersole, Fiscal Administrator

GUESTS

Justin Leventry, Senator Hutchinson's Office
Marc Pugliese, Senator Martin's Office
Sam Arnold, Senator Kearney's Office
Brianna Medevich, Representative Freeman's Office
Rob Gaertner, House Local Government Committee (R)
Christopher Mulhall, House Local Government Committee (R)
Amy Sturges, Pennsylvania Municipal League
Kaitlin Errickson, Pennsylvania Municipal League
Ed Troxell, Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs
Ron Grutza, Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs
Joe Gerdes, Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors
Melissa Morgan, Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors
Hayden Rigo, Greenlee Partners

As the first order of business, the Executive Director read a statement giving a brief summary of the remote proceeding. Mr. Greene announced that the meeting was being conducted with both Member and Commission staff participation by livestream and was being recorded. Also, on Friday, October 16, 2020, notice of the meeting was posted on the committee meeting pages of the Senate of Pennsylvania and the House of Representatives through the Legislative Data Processing Center. The meeting agenda was posted on the Commission's website,

www.lgc.state.pa.us, on Monday, October 19, 2020. Any questions on agenda items for consideration by the Commission would be addressed during the meeting. After adjournment, the recording of the meeting will be posted on the Commission's website at www.lgc.state.pa.us.

The Members discussed the minutes of the September 23, 2020, business meeting, which were unanimously approved on a motion by Senator Kearney and a second by Representative Freeman. The financial reports for the month of September 2020 were presented, and an explanation was given by the Executive Director. The financial reports were unanimously approved on a motion by Senator Ward and a second by Senator Kearney.

The Commission's general operating budget request for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-2022 was the next item on the agenda to be discussed by the Members. The Director noted that the aggregate proposed budget for the Commission's general operation is 6 percent less than the FY 2020-2021 budget request, with the desired amount for FY 2021-2022 totaling \$1,073,549.00. The Director noted that the line items for Senate medical and prescription drug benefits were increased by 8.5 percent upon an estimate and consulting with the Office of the Senate Chief Clerk. A discussion ensued regarding the proposed line item for salaries. The Director stated that the line item for salaries includes reorganization of staff adjustments and the projected hiring of an associate legal counsel in spring 2021 due to the upcoming retirement of Legal Counsel Wanda Dehan on November 30, 2020. The line item also affords possible staff merit increases of up to 3 percent for 2021. After deliberation, the Members unanimously agreed on a motion by Representative Freeman and a second by Representative James, to approve the budget request and submit the proposed FY 2021-2022 Commission general operating budget request to the Budget Secretary.

Subsequently, the Director gave a detailed explanation of the FY 2021-2022 municipal codes budget request. Chairman Hutchinson then asked for a motion to approve the Commission code account request for FY 2021-2022 in the amount of \$0.00. The request is a result of having a sufficient code account fund balance. The anticipated consolidation of the County Code into Title 16 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes and the recent consolidations of the Borough Code (Title 8) and the Third Class City Code (Title 11) have also contributed to the ample fund balance. Upon consolidation, the printing of the aforementioned Titles becomes the responsibility of the Legislative Reference Bureau, thus precluding the necessity for a separate printing. The Members unanimously agreed to the proposed FY 2021-2022 code account request on a motion by Representative Moul, which was seconded by Representative Freeman. The deadline for all FY 2021-2022 budget submissions to the Budget Secretary is October 31.

The Director announced that an updated sixth edition of the *Pennsylvania Legislator's Municipal Deskbook* will soon be available on the Commission's website, www.lgc.state.pa.us. The *Deskbook* is designed to be easily accessible and reproducible either in part or in its entirety. A digital copy of the publication was sent to each Member for their perusal prior to the meeting. The Director thanked Assistant Director Kris Gazsi, Senior Research Analyst Danette Magee and Research Analyst Julia Frey for their hard work and dedication in finalizing the *Deskbook*. The *Deskbook* contains a collection of some of the recurring concepts, issues and resources that often are involved in giving assistance to constituents on matters encompassing local government. The publication ranks as the highest traffic item on the Commission's website.

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The Director announced that the next business meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 19, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. At that meeting, an executive session will be held to discuss Commission staff reorganization due to the upcoming retirement of Legal Counsel Wanda Dehan.

As the last order of business, the Director encouraged the Members to support the passing of House Bill 2073, Printer's Number 3052. House Bill 2073 proposes to modernize and recodify the First Class Township Code (Code). The Commission, in concert with a working group from the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners in association with the Pennsylvania Municipal League (PML), has since early 2016 reviewed the Code by removing obsolete provisions, incorporating language to reflect case law and current practices, standards and requirements, updating archaic language or language in conflict with other statutes, consolidating common subjects, and adding some language, as relevant. House Bill 2073 passed the House (196-0) and was re-reported as committed from the Senate Appropriations Committee. The PML expressed its wish for the bill to become law by the end of the legislative session, which is November 30, 2020.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

ATTESTED: _____
November 9, 2020