

MEETING OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

Wednesday, November 18, 2015

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 N. Wozniak
Representative Chris Ross
Representative Mauree Gingrich
Representative Kate Harper
Representative Robert L. Freeman
Representative Mary Jo Daley

STAFF

Philip H. Klotz, Executive Director
David A. Greene, Assistant Director-Legal Counsel
Kris Gazsi, Associate Legal Counsel
Karen S. Bear, Secretary

GUESTS

Justin Leventry, Senator Hutchinson's Office
Nathan Akers, Senator Hutchinson's Office
Wanda Snader, House Republican Research Office
Rob Gaertner, House Republican Research Office
Doug Hill, 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
Elam Herr, Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors
Holly Fishel, Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

As the first order of business, the Members discussed the minutes of the October 21, 2015, business meeting, which were unanimously approved on a motion by Senator Wozniak and a second by Senator McGarrigle. The financial report for the month of October 2015 was presented, and a detailed explanation was given by the Executive Director. The financial report was unanimously approved on a motion by Representative Ross and a second by Representative Gingrich. The Commission Members will receive monthly updates on the Commission's fiscal health during the continuation of the budget impasse.

MEETING OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

Page 2 – November 18, 2015

Local Government Commission meeting dates for 2016 were presented to the Members for their approval. After briefly reviewing the dates, the Members voted unanimously to meet on the following dates: January 27, 2016, monthly business meeting; February 10, 2016, monthly business meeting; March 9, 2016, monthly business meeting and meeting with local government associations; April 13, 2016, monthly business meeting; May 11, 2016, monthly business meeting; June 8, 2016, monthly business meeting and meeting with local government associations; July 13, 2016, monthly business meeting; September 28, 2016, monthly business meeting and meeting with local government associations; October 19, 2016, monthly business meeting; November 16, 2016, monthly business meeting; and December 14, 2016, monthly business meeting and meeting with local government associations. Separately, office closing dates for 2016 were presented to the Members and unanimously approved.

Resolutions adopted at the 2015 annual convention of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors were discussed by the Commission Members. The disposition is as follows:

Resolution No. 12 - The Commission staff was instructed to research this issue further and report its findings at the Commission's December business meeting.

Resolution No. 34 - Tabled.

A resolution adopted at the 2015 annual convention of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania was discussed by the Commission Members. The disposition is as follows:

Resolution No. 4 – Commission staff was instructed to research this issue further and report its findings to the Commission Members at a future meeting.

A listing of 2015 resolutions adopted at the annual convention of the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs also was included in the Members' meeting packets for their perusal. Commission Members are invited to introduce any of the municipal resolutions individually if desired.

The Commission's strategic plan was the next item on the agenda for discussion. The Director explained that one of the goals of the strategic plan is to recodify and incorporate the First Class Township Code into Title 73 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes. To realize this objective, Commission staff would need the aid and support of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners (PSATC), a sufficient budget appropriation and another staff attorney. Amy Sturges, representing the Pennsylvania Municipal League, reported that she spoke with the board of the PSATC at its recent annual convention and was instructed to offer PSATC's support to the Commission in its endeavor to recodify the First Class Township Code. It is anticipated that the project commencing in 2016 will take several years to complete. The Members unanimously agreed on a motion by Representative Ross and a second by Representative Gingrich to proceed with the recodification of the First Class Township Code.

The Director informed the Members that the Commission's current online legal research contract with LexisNexis expires January 31, 2016. A chart outlining two online research options was presented to the Members. Both options entail entering into a 36 month contract. The first option is the WestlawNext online program that abolishes the need for hard copies of Purdon's Pennsylvania Statutes at a total three year cost of \$26,239.64. The second option is the LexisNexis

MEETING OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

Page 3 – November 18, 2015

online program with hard copies of the Purdon’s Pennsylvania Statutes at a three year cost total of \$32,964.14. The three year projected cost savings with WestlawNext versus LexisNexis is \$6,724.49. Commission Legal Counsel David Greene and Associate Legal Counsel Kristopher Gazsi reviewed the contract and approved its contents. After some discussion, the Members agreed unanimously on a motion by Senator McGarrigle and a second by Representative Ross to accept Thomson Reuters’ 36 monthly payment plan contract for the WestlawNext program.

As the last order of business, the Executive Director apprised the Members that the Commission’s December 9, 2015, business meeting will be held in conjunction with the quarterly meeting of the Pennsylvania State Association of Elected County Officials (PSAECO) at 8:45 a.m. in Room 14 East Wing-Main Capitol Building. At that meeting, the Members will be reviewing the 2016 janitorial contract and hear representatives from PSAECO address issues affecting county row offices.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

ATTESTED: _____
November 23, 2015