

LIVESTREAM MEETING OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

The livestream meeting of the Local Government Commission (Commission) was called to order by Senator Scott Hutchinson at 9:35 a.m. with the following Commission Members, staff and guests participating:

MEMBERS

Senator Scott E. Hutchinson, Chair
Senator Scott F. Martin
Senator Judith L. Schwank
Senator Timothy P. Kearney
Representative R. Lee James
Representative Dan Moul
Representative Garth D. Everett
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
Cindy Urban, Senator Martin's Office
Matt Maniskas, Senator Schwank's Office
Sam Arnold, Senator Kearney's Office
Christopher Mulhall, House Local Government Committee (R)
Lisa Schaefer, County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania
Ashley White, County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania
Rick Schuettler, Pennsylvania Municipal League
Amy Sturges, Pennsylvania Municipal League
Kaitlin Errickson, Pennsylvania Municipal League
Ed Troxell, Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs
Ron Grutza, Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs
Melissa Morgan, Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors
The Honorable Catherine "Kate" Harper
Donald Grell, formerly with House Local Government Committee (R)
Elam Herr, formerly with Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors
Anita Lewis, Amerihealth Caritas

LIVESTREAM MEETING OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

Page 2 – November 18, 2020

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 Monday, November 9, 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, November 16, 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.

An Executive Session was held prior to the business meeting for the stated purpose of discussing Commission staff reorganization due to the upcoming November 30, 2020, retirement of Legal Counsel Wanda Dehan. On a motion by Representative James and a second by Senator Kearney, the Members unanimously approved to merge the positions of Assistant Director and Legal Counsel by appointing Kristopher J. Gazsi to the position and increasing his current base salary by 10 percent effective December 1, 2020.

The Members discussed the minutes of the October 21, 2020, business meeting, which were unanimously approved on a motion by Senator Martin and a second by Representative James. The financial reports for the month of October 2020 were presented, and an explanation was given by the Executive Director. The financial reports were unanimously approved on a motion by Representative James and a second by Senator Kearney.

Chairman Hutchinson and Vice Chairman James made virtual presentations to Legal Counsel Wanda Dehan to celebrate her forthcoming retirement. Ms. Dehan was given citations from the Senate of Pennsylvania and the House of Representatives of Pennsylvania in honor of her more than 15 years with the Pennsylvania Legislature. During her tenure, Ms. Dehan was employed by the Commission for 12 years and three years as the Executive Director of the Republican House Local Government Committee. Ms. Dehan was instrumental in the development and enactment of significant initiatives, including revisions of the Municipalities Financial Recovery Act, and also was the principal architect of legislation modernizing the First Class Township Code.

As the last order of business, the Director announced that the next business meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 9, 2020. At that meeting, the Members will review the Commission’s accomplishments for the 2019-2020 legislative session and discuss initiatives for the upcoming 2021-2022 session.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

ATTESTED: _____
December 2, 2020