

MEETING OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

Wednesday, December 12, 2012

The meeting of the Local Government Commission was called to order by Senator Robert D. Robbins at 4:05 p.m. in the Local Government Commission offices located at 555 Walnut Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, with the following individuals present:

MEMBERS

Senator Robert D. Robbins, Chairman
Senator Edwin B. Erickson via telephone
Senator John H. Eichelberger, Jr.
Senator John N. Wozniak
Senator John P. Blake
Representative Chris Ross
Representative Mauree Gingrich via telephone
Representative Robert L. Freeman via telephone
The Honorable Tom C. Creighton

STAFF

Michael P. Gasbarre, Executive Director, via telephone
Philip H. Klotz, Assistant Director
David A. Greene, Legal Counsel
Karen S. Bear, Secretary

GUESTS

Lee Derr, Senator Eichelberger's Office
Luc Miron, Senator Blake's Office
Kyle Mullins, Senator Blake's Office
Rosemary Wuenschel, Representative Santarsiero's Office via telephone
Wanda Snader, House Republican Research Office
Rob Gaertner, House Republican Research Office

As the first order of business, the Members discussed the minutes of the November 14, 2012, business meeting, which were unanimously approved on a motion by Senator Erickson and a second by Senator Blake. The financial report for the month of November 2012 was presented, and relevant portions thereof were explained by the Executive Director. The financial report was unanimously approved on a motion by Senator Erickson and a second by Representative Freeman.

The Executive Director reviewed the Local Government Commission's (LGC) priorities for 2013. The LGC's major objectives for 2013 are as follows: (1) reintroduction of the recodification of the Third Class City Code; (2) conversion of the new Borough Code as enacted by Act 43 of 2012 into Title 8 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes; (3) reformation of the Act 47 Task Force; (4) modernization of the County Code and its consolidation with the Second Class County Code; (5) reintroduction of Local Government Commission bills from last session that were not enacted and review of municipal association annual resolutions for possible introduction as legislation in the 2013-2014 legislative session; (6) implementation of the recommendations of the Senate Resolution 323 Task Force on State Mandates; and (7) updating, printing, and distributing municipal code supplements for the Third Class City Code, the First and Second Class Township Codes, and the County Code.

House Resolution (HR) 774 recommendations were the next item on the agenda for discussion. HR 774 of 2012 established a select committee to investigate and review the interrelationship between all current sources of school district and local government tax revenue, with a focus on property taxes, the current system of federal and State funding of school districts, and other local government functions. Recommendations in the draft report direct the LGC to develop a "best practices" guide for local taxing authorities engaged in debt collection, including but not limited to collections through third party

contracts. It also requests the LGC to study the actual and potential incentives for local governmental entities to enter into consolidation or intergovernmental cooperation agreements for the provision of services and administrative functions. During a lengthy discussion by the Members, Representative Ross indicated that efforts in the recodification of the Real Estate Tax Sale Law and the Municipal Claim and Tax Lien Law most likely would address the ‘best practices’ recommendation. The Members also concurred that incentives for consolidation and intergovernmental cooperation have already been extensively studied, which sufficiently address the second recommendation.

The January 2013 business meeting will be held on January 23, 2013, at 8:45 a.m. in Room 14 East Wing-Main Capitol Building. This meeting was originally scheduled for January 30, 2013. Both the Members’ Capitol and District Offices will receive notice of the schedule change.

As the last order of business, the Executive Director discussed reopening the search for an Associate Legal Counsel. The previous search yielded three possible candidates, all of whom chose to accept other offers of employment. The Members unanimously granted on a motion by Senator Erickson and a second by Representative Ross to grant the Executive Director some discretion in offering a higher salary to potential candidates, if deemed necessary. Advertising for the vacant position will occur in the *Patriot News* on two Sundays and in the classified section of the newspaper’s PennLive website for 30 days at a cost of under \$800. Advertising will also occur in the placement offices of Penn State Dickinson, Widener, University of Pittsburgh, Temple, and Drexel law schools.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

ATTESTED: _____
January 1, 2013