

IN-PERSON AND LIVESTREAM BUSINESS MEETING OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

Tuesday, August 27, 2024

The meeting of the Local Government Commission (Commission) was called to order by Senator Scott Hutchinson at 10:28 a.m. in Room 515 Irvis Office Building with the following Commission Members, staff and guests participating in-person and remotely:

MEMBERS

**Senator Scott E. Hutchinson, Chair
Senator Cris Dush
Senator Timothy P. Kearney
Representative Robert Freeman
Representative Christina D. Sappey
Representative Dan Moul**

STAFF

**David A. Greene, Executive Director
Kristopher J. Gazsi, Assistant Director
Martin A. Toth, Associate Legal Counsel
Julia Frey, Research Analyst
Rex Burman, Research Analyst
Karen S. Bear, Executive Assistant
Sonya I. Ebersole, Fiscal Administrator**

GUESTS

**Justin Leventry, Senator Hutchinson's Office
Isaac Evans, Senator Hutchinson's Office
Sam Arnold, Senator Kearney's Office
Emily Eyster, Senator Comitta's Office
Ryan Carpenter, Representative Freeman's Office
Mary Yoder, Senate Local Government Committee (R)
Jon Castelli, House Local Government Committee (D)
Jennie Shade, Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association
Amy Sturges, Pennsylvania Municipal League
Kaitlin Errickson, Pennsylvania Municipal League
A.C. Stickel, Pennsylvania State Association of Elected County Officials
Joe Gerdes, Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors
Brian Rengert, Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors
Barbara Huesken, Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association
Carrie Nace, Novak Strategies
Donna Gentile, Carbon County Recorder of Deeds
Dawn Blauch, Lebanon County Recorder of Deeds
Jessica Kemmerer, McNees Strategic Solutions Group
Justin Smith**

At 10:29 a.m., the Members resolved themselves into executive session to confer about a Commission personnel issue. At 10:35 a.m. the Members returned to public session.

IN-PERSON AND LIVESTREAM BUSINESS MEETING OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

Page 2 – August 27, 2024

The Executive Director made a statement that the in-person and virtual meeting was being recorded and conducted with both Member and Commission staff participation. On Wednesday, August 7, 2024, 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 Friday, August 23, 2024, and outside of the Commission's office located at 506 Irvis Office Building. Any questions on agenda items for consideration by the Commission were 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.

As a result of the Executive Session, the Members voted unanimously on a motion by Senator Dush, and a second by Representative Moul, to promote Julia Frey from Research Analyst to Senior Research Analyst as provided in the current Commission Personnel Policy. A salary adjustment of 12 percent to be effective on September 1, 2024, was awarded to Ms. Frey to reflect the promotion.

The Members reviewed the minutes of the June 12, 2024, business meeting, which were unanimously approved on a motion by Senator Dush and a second by Representative Freeman. The financial reports for the months of June and July 2024 were presented, and an explanation was given by the Executive Director. The financial reports were unanimously approved on a motion by Senator Dush and a second by Representative Moul.

Proposed Commission meeting dates for September through November 2024 were presented to the Members for their consideration. After a brief discussion, the Members unanimously agreed on a motion by Senator Kearney and a second by Representative Freeman to the remaining 2024 Commission business meeting dates: Wednesday, September 18, 2024; Wednesday, October 9, 2024; and Wednesday, November 13, 2024.

The Members reviewed adopted resolutions submitted by the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) from the April 16, 2024, Annual Education Conference. The status of the discussed resolutions is as follows:

Resolution 02 - RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to amend Section 601(f)(4) of the Pennsylvania Workers' Compensation Act to require coverage for volunteer emergency service providers who are "providing support for organized fundraisers" for a volunteer emergency services organization and are injured while performing these duties. The Members directed the Commission staff to draft legislation for the Members' review and consideration at a future meeting.

Resolution 31 - RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to amend Title 34, Section 721, of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to give townships the authority to regulate the acquisition, control, management, and disposition of government-owned and funded lands. The Members directed the Commission staff to draft legislation for the Members' review and consideration at a future meeting.

IN-PERSON AND LIVESTREAM BUSINESS MEETING OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

Page 3 – August 27, 2024

Resolution 46 - RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to expand Act 28 of 1984 (Automobile Lemon Law) to include defective road equipment purchased by townships. The Members directed the Commission staff to draft legislation for the Members' review and consideration at a future meeting.

Joe Gerdes, PSATS Director of Government Relations, and Brian Rengert, PSATS Deputy Director of Government Relations, addressed the Members' queries and thanked the Members for their consideration of the resolutions.

As the last order of business, the Director announced that the Commission staff is progressing with various assigned studies and is continuing to organize the 2024 Symposium scheduled for October 24, 2024. More details involving the Symposium will be presented to the Members at the September 18 business meeting.

The next Commission meeting, as previously mentioned by the Director, is Wednesday, September 18, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 515 Irvis Office Building. The Director encouraged Member attendance at the September meeting since the Commission's fiscal year 2025-2026 budget request must be approved and submitted to the Budget Secretary by September 30, 2024.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

**ATTESTED: _____
September 16, 2024**