

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

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

The meeting of the Local Government Commission (Commission) was called to order by Senator Scott Hutchinson at 9:02 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 Rosemary M. Brown
Senator Timothy P. Kearney
Senator Carolyn T. Comitta
Representative Robert Freeman
Representative R. Lee James
Representative Dan Moul**

STAFF

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

GUESTS

**Isaac Evans, Senator Hutchinson's Office
Sam Arnold, Senator Kearney's Office
Emily Eyster, Senator Comitta's Office
Ryan Carpenter, Representative Freeman's Office
Miller Masson, House Fellow, Representative Freeman's Office
Teresa Leitner, Representative James' Office
Mary Yoder, Senate Local Government Committee (R)
Jon Castelli, House Local Government Committee (D)
Lindsay Ewing, House Research Office (R)
Sophie Eyer, County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania
Amy Sturges, Pennsylvania Municipal League
Kaitlin Errickson, Pennsylvania Municipal League
Ron Grutza, Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs
Logan Stover, Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs
A.C. Stickel, Pennsylvania State Association of Elected County Officials
Clint Cullison, Greenlee Partners
Griffith Rynear, Harrisburg University Student**

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, September 4, 2024, notice of the meeting was posted on the committee meeting pages of the Senate

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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, September 16, 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.

The Members reviewed the minutes of the August 27, 2024, business meeting, which were unanimously approved on a motion by Representative Moul and a second by Senator Dush. The financial reports for the month of August 2024 were presented, and an explanation was given by the Executive Director. The financial reports were unanimously approved on a motion by Senator Kearney and a second by Senator Dush.

The Members discussed the Commission budget request for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2026. The aggregate proposed budget for the Commission's general operation is about one percent higher than what the Commission requested for FY 2024-2025, with the requested amount for FY 2025-2026 totaling \$1,251,022.00. The Director explained that the line items for Senate medical and prescription drug benefits were projected to increase by the same amounts as the previous year, and the line item for Commission staff salaries reflects a projected salary increase through combined cost-of-living and maximum merit increments of five percent. It was noted that the Commission has received the same appropriation of \$1,283,000 since FY 2019-2020. On a motion by Senator Brown and a second by Senator Kearney, the Members unanimously agreed to tender the proposed FY 2025-2026 Commission general appropriation budget request to the Budget Secretary by the September 30 submission deadline.

The Chairman then requested a motion to approve the Commission code account request for FY 2025-2026 in the amount of \$0.00. The request, which has been unchanged since FY 2019-2020, is a result of having a sufficient code account fund balance. Consolidations of the Borough Code (Title 8) and the Third Class City Code (Title 11) have attributed to the ample fund balance. Upon consolidation, the printing of the Titles became the responsibility of the Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB), thus precluding the necessity for a separate printing. The Executive Director opined that the Commission is only responsible for the printing of the Second Class Township Code and any supplements thereto. The Members unanimously agreed to the proposed FY 2025-2026 code account request on a motion by Representative Moul, which was seconded by Representative James. This request will also be submitted to the Budget Secretary by the September 30 submission deadline.

Senior Research Analyst Julia Frey provided details on the fourth annual Local Government Symposium scheduled for Thursday, October 24. Ms. Frey stated that the morning session will focus on stormwater management and flood control planning, and the afternoon session will pertain to housing availability and affordability. A presentation will also be given during the lunch session spotlighting volunteer firefighter recruitment and retention. Commission staff is finalizing the details and anticipates a rewarding, informative event for all attendees. Registration for the event may be accomplished by visiting the Commission's website at www.lgc.state.pa.us. Thanks to the work of Commission Associate Legal Counsel Martin Toth all attorneys attending, in person, may earn continuing legal education (CLE) credits. Ms. Frey opined that Member involvement is welcome, and Commission Members will be contacted to schedule their Symposium participation. Representative Moul recommended that emphasis be

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placed on the administration of stormwater management. Senator Dush also advocated that municipal officials in the counties of Lycoming, Potter, Tioga, and Union could offer insight on flood control planning following the recent flooding from the remnants of Hurricane Debby.

As the last orders of business, the Director announced that the Pennsylvania State Association of Elected County Officials (PSAECO) is planning its fall luncheon. More details will be forthcoming. Furthermore, Commission Associate Legal Counsel is organizing a Lunch and Learn seminar to be held early next year. Attendees can earn CLE credits by listening to presentations with the American Planning Association on the structure of the Municipalities Planning Code pertaining to housing and the Pennsylvania Economy League on police territorial issues.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 9, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 515 Irvis Office Building.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 a.m.

ATTESTED: _____
September 30, 2024