

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

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

The meeting of the Local Government Commission (Commission) was called to order by Senator Scott Hutchinson at 9:00 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 Rosemary M. Brown
Senator Timothy P. Kearney
Senator Carolyn T. Comitta
Representative Robert Freeman
Representative Christine Sappey
Representative R. Lee James**

STAFF

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

GUESTS

**Justin Leventry, Senator Hutchinson's Office
Matthew Deegan, Senator Hutchinson's Office
Sam Arnold, Senator Kearney's Office
Emily Eyster, Senator Comitta's Office
Arianna Genna, Representative Freeman's Office
Teresa Leitner, Representative James' Office
Mary Yoder, Senate Local Government Committee (R)
Jon Castelli, House Local Government Committee (D)
Joshua Walker, House Local Government Committee (R)
Lindsay Ewing, House Local Government Committee (R)
Frank Mazza, County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania
Eric Jespersen, Pennsylvania Geospatial Coordinating Board
Amy Sturges, Pennsylvania Municipal League
Kaitlin Errickson, Pennsylvania Municipal League
Ed Troxell, Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs
Ron Grutza, Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs
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
Derek Danneker, PLS**

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Barbara Huesken, Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association

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 Tuesday, October 3, 2023, 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, October 16, 2023, 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 the first order of business, the Members reviewed the minutes of the September 20, 2023, business meeting, which were unanimously approved on a motion by Representative Freeman and a second by Senator Brown. The financial reports for the month of September 2023 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 Brown.

A possible amendment to the Second Class Township Code was reviewed by the Members for potential introduction. The legislation would amend Section 407 of the Second Township Code by streamlining the method of filling a vacancy on the board of township supervisors in the event of an appointment deadlock. Members debated the option of making board vacancy selections party specific as outlined in the County Code. After some discussion, the Members unanimously decided to introduce the language in both chambers as originally submitted with Senator Kearney and Representative Freeman as prime sponsors. The Director stated that he would explore the suggestion of making board vacancy appointments party specific with the applicable local government associations and report the findings to the Members at the November meeting.

Pennsylvania State Association of Elected County Officials (PSAECO) President A.C. Stickel kindly invited the Members and staff to its annual legislative luncheon scheduled for Tuesday, November 14, 2023. PSAECO is an association consisting of representatives from all Pennsylvania statewide county row office associations. PSAECO works collaboratively with the General Assembly, the Governor's office, and the judiciary to pursue police objectives beneficial to the citizens of Pennsylvania's 67 counties.

Members were given a final update for the Commission's third annual Local Government Symposium to be held on Thursday, October 19, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. Commission Research Analyst Julia Frey reported that 112 individuals plan to attend this year's Symposium. The Symposium will involve four panels with differing municipal topics, such as land use issues, emergency services, consolidation and merger, and technology in local governments, and a municipal legal update presentation by Attorney Samuel Wiser of Salzman Hughes, P.C. As a reminder, all attorneys attending in person can earn up to 4.5 continuing legal education credits. Registration will be accepted until the time of the event by visiting the Commission's website at www.lgc.state.pa.us. Ms. Frey thanked the Members for their participation.

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The Director reported that the re-introduction of the consolidation of the County Code in Title 16 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes in both the Senate of Pennsylvania and the House of Representatives has been completed. Senate Bill 945, Printer's Number 111, and House Bill 1762, Printer's Number 2162, are identical to last session's Commission bill, Senate Bill 831, Printer's Number 1760. Senate Bill 945 is on second consideration in the Senate and House Bill 1762 was referred to the House Local Government Committee. Four Commission bills—Senate Bills 1477 and 1588 and House Bills 753 and 784--are to be considered by the House Local Government Committee at its Wednesday, October 18, 2023, meeting.

As the last order of business, the Director stated that the next Commission business meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in 515 Irvis Office Building. At that meeting, the Members will be given another update on Commission sponsored legislation.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

ATTESTED: _____
November 9, 2023