

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

**Wednesday, December 13, 2023**

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**  
**Representative Robert Freeman**  
**Representative Christine Sappey**  
**Representative Ismail Smith-Wade-El**  
**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, Research Analyst**  
**Jaren N. Bittinger, Research Analyst**  
**Karen S. Bear, Executive Assistant**  
**Sonya I. Ebersole, Fiscal Administrator**

**GUESTS**

**Representative Tarah Probst**  
**Justin Leventry, Senator Hutchinson's Office**  
**Matthew Deegan, Senator Hutchinson's Office**  
**Christine Zubeck, Senator Brown's Office**  
**Emily Eyster, Senator Comitta's Office**  
**Mary Yoder, Senate Local Government Committee (R)**  
**Jon Castelli, House Local Government Committee (D)**  
**Lindsay Ewing, House Local Government Committee (R)**  
**Terri Wills, PA Department of Community and Economic Development**  
**Melissa Gates, County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania**  
**Kaitlin Errickson, Pennsylvania Municipal League**  
**Ed Troxell, Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs**  
**Ron Grutza, Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs**  
**Logan Stover, Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs**  
**Joe Gerdes, Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors**  
**Brian Rengert, Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors**  
**Barbara Huesken, Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association**  
**Donna Gentile, Carbon County Recorder of Deeds**

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**Dawn Blauch, Lebanon County Recorder of Deeds  
Clint Cullison, Greenlee Partners  
Bob Heff**

**At 9:01 a.m., the members resolved themselves into Executive Session to discuss the annual review and retention of the Executive Director. At 9:08 a.m. the Members returned to public session.**

**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, November 29, 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](http://www.lgc.state.pa.us), on Monday, December 11, 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](http://www.lgc.state.pa.us).**

**As a result of the Executive Session, the Members unanimously approved on a motion by Chairman Hutchinson, and a second by Senator Brown, to retain the Executive Director for calendar year 2024 and to award Mr. Greene with a merit and cost-of-living adjustment increase of 5 percent effective January 1, 2024. The Members thanked the Executive Director for his continued service to the Members of the General Assembly. Senate Local Government Committee Chairwoman, Senator Brown, and House Local Government Committee Chairman, Representative Freeman, celebrated the Executive Director’s unwavering assistance to both Committees.**

**The Members reviewed the minutes of the November 15, 2023, business meeting, which were unanimously approved on a motion by Senator Brown and a second by Representative Freeman. The financial reports for the month of November 2023 were presented, and an explanation was given by the Executive Director. The financial reports were unanimously approved on a motion by Representative Moul and a second by Senator Kearney.**

**Proposed legislation recommended by the State Planning Board was the next item on the agenda for discussion. Assistant Director Kris Gazsi explained that the bill would amend the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (PMPC) by extending and expanding authorizations to adopt and implement specific plans beyond multi-municipal comprehensive plans. This would allow a municipality to adopt and implement a detailed plan for development that is consistent with and an extension of a municipal comprehensive plan. Specific plans were introduced into the PMPC by Act 67 of 2000, part of a larger effort to enable and encourage regional planning through multi-municipal comprehensive plans. To that end, specific plans were conceived as a tool that would be deployed to allow a municipality to create a detailed plan for development of a particular area of a community including land use standards, transportation facilities, density, and conservation of natural resources. When a developer proposes to develop the land consistently with the specific plan, the developer can take advantage of a streamlined approval process and**

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proceed directly to final subdivision and land development approval under Article V of the PMPC. The State Planning Board recommended the amendment noting that the change would cut down on the complexity of the permitting process by clearly defining what is expected of a development. The proposal was submitted to the members of the State Planning Board for feedback and distributed by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development to other Commonwealth agencies for input to shape the current language of the proposal. To date, no agency has expressed opposition to this legislation. After questions, concerns, and suggestions from Members, staff was directed to do additional research and consultation and return the proposal amendment at a future meeting.

Proposed Commission meeting dates for January through June 2024 were presented to the Members for their consideration. After a brief discussion, the Members unanimously agreed on a motion by Senator Dush, and a second by Representative Sappey, to the following 2024 Commission business meeting dates: Wednesday, January 17, 2024; Wednesday, March 20, 2024; Wednesday, April 10, 2024; Wednesday, May 8, 2024; and Wednesday, June 12, 2024. A list of the remaining 2024 Commission dates will be established when the Senate and House session calendars are released for the latter half of 2024. Office closing dates for 2024 were presented to the Members for their information. The dates are those delineated in the Commission’s Personnel Policy and mirror those of the Senate of Pennsylvania.

As the last order of business, the Director wished everyone Merry Christmas and thanked the Members for their assistance throughout 2023. The next Commission business meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 9:49 a.m.

ATTESTED: \_\_\_\_\_  
January 23, 2024