

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Commission on Local Government**  
**10:00 a.m., January 12, 2016**  
**The Virginia Housing Center**  
**Henrico Room 3**  
**4224 Cox Road**  
**Glen Allen, Virginia**

**Members Present**

Victoria L. Hull, Chairman  
Bruce C. Goodson  
John T. Stirrup, Jr.

**Members Absent**

Diane M. Linderman, Vice-Chairman

**Staff Present**

Elizabeth Rafferty, Policy and Legislative Director  
J. David Conmy, Local Government Policy Administrator  
Ali Akbor, Senior Public Finance Analyst  
Kyle Flanders, Policy Analyst

**Call to Order**

Commission Chairman Bruce Goodson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. on January 12, 2016, in Henrico Room 3 at the Virginia Housing Center in Glen Allen, Virginia.

**I. Election of Officers for 2016**

Mr. Stirrup nominated Ms. Hull for Chair, and the Commission unanimously elected Ms. Hull as Chair for 2016. **[Ms. Hull assumed the role of Chair at this point in the meeting.]**

Mr. Goodson nominated Ms. Linderman for Vice-Chair, and the Commission unanimously elected Ms. Linderman as Vice-Chair for 2016.

**II. Administration**

Ms. Hull welcomed members of the audience attending the commission meeting.

**A. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting on November 17, 2015**

Ms. Hull made a motion to amend the minutes regarding grammatical and spelling changes on

Page 2 and Page 3. Mr. Goodson made a motion to approve the minutes, as amended. Such motion was seconded by Mr. Stirrup, and the Commission unanimously approved the minutes.

**B. Public Comment Period**

The Chair opened the floor to receive comments from the public. No person appeared to testify before the Commission during the public comment period.

**C. Presentation of Financial Statement for December 2015**

Referencing an internally produced financial statement that encompassed expenditures through the end of December 2015, or one-half of the year, Mr. Conmy stated that fiscal year-to-date expenditures were 42% of the total allocated amount. This represented 41% and 54% of the allocated personnel and non-personnel amounts, respectively.

**D. Policy Manager's Report**

Prior to the policy administrator's report, Ms. Hull asked Ms. Rafferty to provide a staffing update. Ms. Rafferty indicated that Mr. Conmy was promoted to the Local Government Policy Administrator position from his previous role as Senior Policy Analyst. She also introduced Mr. Ali Akbor as the Commission's new Senior Public Finance Analyst. Ms. Rafferty indicated that staff will wait to fill Mr. Conmy's old position until after the General Assembly Session is over in March due to workload constraints. The Commission congratulated and welcomed Mr. Conmy and Mr. Akbor.

Prior to delving into his report, Mr. Conmy indicated that information regarding an update to the IRS mileage reimbursement rates had been inserted in the Commissioners' packets. The rate for 2016 had decreased to \$0.54 per mile from \$0.575 per mile.

Mr. Conmy then reviewed several news articles of interest with the Commission, including:

- An article related to a rally and petition for a referendum on the extension of Norfolk's light rail system, The Tide, into Virginia Beach.

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- The Arlington Chamber of Commerce's effort to seek restoration of the transient occupancy taxing authority for Arlington County during the 2016 General Assembly Session.
- The City of Richmond maintaining its Aa2 bond rating from Moody's despite recent issues and a 10-month delay in submitting its annual financial report to the state.
- Lobbying efforts on behalf of localities to shift more money in the state budget to public education.
- The local government VRS retirement contribution rates have decreased for the 2016 to 2018 biennium.
- A report on state-responsible inmates being held in local or regional jails.
- Martinsville's 2016 legislative agenda to include requests related to local government school division consolidation incentives, taxing authorities, enterprise zones, construction of Interstate 73, and adequate funding for various city economic development and workforce development efforts.
- The unique circumstances behind the election of Glen Lyn's town manager to become town mayor.
- A budget shortfall in Fairfax County related to federal sequestration and the county's efforts to address gap issues with its operating budget.
- The announced retirement of Jim Campbell, executive director for the Virginia Association of Counties, effective June 30, 2016.
- The submittal of the City of Richmond's unaudited local government comparative report to the state on November 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Fiscal issues in the City of Bristol preventing their ability to participate in various efforts with their sister city.
- The City of Portsmouth's experimental goat-scaping grass cutting program.
- The announced retirement of Kimball Payne, City Manager for Lynchburg, effective June 30, 2016.

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- A proposed bill from Delegate Villanueva to establish a utility cap and trade system to address issues related to sea level rise in the Commonwealth.
- The development of a wind energy farm in Botetourt County.
- A proposed bill from Senator Favola related to fines for those caught on camera passing stopped school buses.
- A report on the potential projected loss of the Town of Tangier within the next 50 years related to sea level rise.

Mr. Conmy then summarized ongoing staff activities. He mentioned that he has been contacted by the Governor's Office regarding the appointment to the Commission for the seat that was recently vacated by Mr. John Kines. He also mentioned that he and several other Commission staff members attended the Virginia Finance Forum co-hosted by the Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) and Virginia Municipal League (VML).

**III. Fiscal Stress Report for 2013/2014**

Mr. Conmy indicated that the 2014 Fiscal Stress Report was not available. He indicated that he had already informed the Commissioners about the likelihood of the report's delay. Due to the tardiness in several localities submitting their financial reports to the Virginia Auditor of Public Accounts (APA), an updated Local Comparative Report was still unavailable on the APA's website, but the amended report, which would include the missing localities' information, should be available soon. He indicated that staff had been in touch with a contact person at the APA; and that, assuming the missing information was released soon, the 2014 Fiscal Stress Report would likely be available by the March Commission meeting. There was general discussion among the Commissioners and staff regarding the use of information contained in the Fiscal Stress Report by other state agencies and organizations.

**IV. Governor's Task Force for Local Government Mandate Review**

Mr. Conmy indicated that Ms. Rafferty will be reaching out to the Task Force members to schedule a meeting for some time between the end of the General Assembly regular session

(March 12<sup>th</sup>) and reconvened session (April 20<sup>th</sup>). The goal would be for the Task Force to submit their recommendations to the Governor prior to the veto deadline. There was discussion and questions about how the upcoming Task Force would be structured and the potential outcomes from that meeting. Ms. Rafferty indicated that some of the Task Force's most recent recommendations had made their way into the Governor's budget while others still remained to be addressed.

**V. 2016 General Assembly Session**

Mr. Conmy summarized certain pieces of the Governor's budget that were related to the Commission on Local Government (CLG) and on localities in the Commonwealth. He stated that the proposed budget includes a slight reduction in funding to the CLG, but that the difference was less than half of one percent of the former budget total. Other highlights of the budget that he summarized included:

- No change in funding to Virginia's 21 Planning District Commissions (PDCs)
- Approximately \$25.5 million in funding for the proposed GO Virginia program
- \$429.8 million for re-benchmarking the Standards of Quality
- \$139 million for 2,500 K-12 instructional positions
- \$83.2 million for a 2 percent raise for teachers and support positions
- \$30 million to fully fund teach pensions by Fiscal Year 2017
- \$12 million for the Virginia Housing Trust Fund
- \$10 million for healthy food financing to address food deserts in Virginia
- \$5.7 million for broadband infrastructure improvements
- \$12.3 million to address salary compression for sworn and non-sworn employees of sheriff's offices and regional jails

Mr. Conmy indicated that staff had already been very active during the General Assembly Session and had provided 34 Legislative Assessment Summaries (LAS) to the Governor's Office, including charter bills, various local government power and taxing authority bills, and

notification requirements by localities. He also stated that the CLG's Fiscal Impact Statement (FIS) local volunteer web portal was ready to begin reviewing bills referred to the CLG for fiscal analysis. Mr. Conmy and Mr. Flanders provided a brief summary of some of the bills for which staff had prepared an LAS. There was general discussion regarding the LAS and FIS process among the Commissioners. Mr. Conmy, Ms. Rafferty, and Mr. Flanders responded to additional questions.

There was also additional discussion among the Commissioners regarding any potential needed follow-up on the Commission's recently adopted Local Government Consolidation Incentives Study.

**VI. Commending Resolution for Mr. John Kines**

Next, the Commission considered Mr. Kines' commending resolution that was distributed to the members prior to the meeting. Mr. Conmy noted several changes to the resolution that had been made after the agenda packets had been distributed to the Commissioners. Mr. Goodson moved for approval of the draft resolution, and such motion was seconded by Mr. Stirrup and was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Conmy indicated that he would invite Mr. Kines to the Commission's March meeting for presentation of the resolution.

**VII. Other**

Ms. Hull inquired if there was any other business for the Commission to discuss. Mr. Conmy reminded the Commissioners of the previous due date for financial disclosure forms.

**VIII. Schedule of Regular Meetings**

Ms. Hull noted that the next meeting of the Commission would be held on March 8, 2016, at the Virginia Housing Center in Henrico Room 3.

Ms. Hull also noted the remaining scheduled Commission meetings and suggested the Commission consider rescheduling the November meeting due to it occurring on the same day as elections. Mr. Goodson recommended moving the meeting date to November 15<sup>th</sup>, which the Commission unanimously agreed to reschedule.

**IX. Upcoming Events of Interest**

Ms. Hull reviewed upcoming dates and events of interest for the Commission, including VML Day at the Capitol on January 27<sup>th</sup> in Richmond and VACo County Government Day on February 11<sup>th</sup> in Richmond.

**X. Adjournment**

Mr. Stirrup made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Goodson, and was unanimously adopted. The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

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Victoria L. Hull  
Chair

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J. David Conmy  
Local Government Policy Administrator