

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Commission on Local Government
2:00 p.m., August 15, 2017
Virginia Housing Center
Board Room

Members Present

Diane M. Linderman, Chair
Kimble Reynolds, Jr., Vice-Chair
R. Michael Amyx
Victoria L. Hull

Members Absent

Bruce C. Goodson

Staff Present

J. David Conmy, Local Government Policy Administrator
Ali Akbor, Senior Public Finance Analyst
Kristen Dahlman, Senior Policy Analyst (remote participation)
Lindsay Barker, Program Support Specialist

Call to Order

The Commission on Local Government (CLG) Chair, Ms. Linderman, called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

I. Presentation of Commending Resolution to John Stirrup

Ms. Linderman presented and read the commending resolution to Mr. John Stirrup for his contributions to the Commission during his tenure. Several members shared their gratitude, and Mr. Stirrup shared an anecdote and thanked members and staff for their hard work and dedication.

II. Administration

A. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting on May 9, 2017

Mr. Reynolds moved to approve the minutes, as written. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hull and unanimously approved.

B. Public Comment Period

Ms. Linderman opened the floor to receive comments from the public in attendance. The new Chief Executive Officer of the Home Builder's Association of Virginia, Mr. Craig Toalson introduced himself to the

Commission and the Government affairs director, Andrew Clark. He offered to be a resource to the Commission in matters concerning homebuilders in Virginia. No additional comments from the public were received; the public comment period was then closed.

C. Presentation of Financial Statement for June and July 2017

Referencing an internally produced financial statement that encompassed expenditures through the end of May and June 2017, Mr. Conmy stated that the report represents 91 percent and 100 percent of FY2017 and that the Commission ended the year with a balanced budget. Mr. Conmy stated that he believed this report to the Commission was a carry-over from when the CLG was its own separate agency; and, now that the Commission is under the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), he suggested that the Commission reconsider whether or not to continually receive the report. After some discussion, the Commission agreed to a semi-annual report of the financial statements.

D. Policy Administrator's report

Mr. Conmy introduced Mr. Flanders who shared an update in regards to the Board of Housing's triennial review of the building and fire code. Mr. Conmy also noted that he attended a signing ceremony on behalf of the agency for the Covington and Alleghany Voluntary Economic Growth Sharing Agreement, which the Commission had recently reviewed. Since the Commission's last meeting, staff presented to the Special Joint Subcommittee on Local Government Fiscal Stress. After additional discussion, the Commission subsequently requested that the Auditor of Public Accounts present to the Commission an overview of the early warning detection system during their September or November meeting. Mr. Conmy then updated the Commission on the status of Planning District Commissions (PDC) annual reports. The PDCs are working to submit their annual reports in DHCD's centralized application management system (CAMS) that are due by September 1. Mr. Conmy then reviewed several news articles of interest with the Commission.

III. Annual Report on Municipal Boundary Line Changes

A. Staff Presentation

Ms. Dahlman presented the report of five municipal boundary line changes to the Commission. Ms. Dahlman gave a brief overview of each boundary line adjustment and indicated that each one was a friendly boundary line adjustment. The majority of the cases were between towns and counties.

B. Commission Deliberation and Action

Ms. Linderman noted that the report said there was a boundary line adjustment between the City of Roanoke and Rappahannock County, but should be Roanoke County. After no further discussion, Ms. Hull made a motion to approve the report, as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Reynolds and unanimously approved.

IV. Interim Fiscal Stress Report for 2014/2015

Mr. Akbor updated the Commission that the City of Hopewell was still delinquent in submitting their financial report to the Auditor of Public Accounts (APA). Staff proposed an interim fiscal stress report, utilizing Hopewell's data from the previous year because of the general consistency in the report's rankings and classifications from year to year. Mr. Akbor gave an overview of the report and explained the breakdown of scores and how the Commission assigns fiscal stress. Mr. Akbor then presented the findings of the report to the Commission. The Commission will release an update to the report once the remaining missing data is received.

V. Periodic Review: Commission on Local Government Regulations

A. Staff Presentation

Mr. Conmy stated that the periodic review was published in the Virginia register in June and that the required public comment period closed in July. During the public comment period, no comments were received. Mr. Conmy presented staff's suggested changes to the regulations to the Commission that includes: the use of the Oxford commas, gender neutral terms, clarification over the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair, and general updates based on several changes to state law.

B. Commission Deliberation and Action

Ms. Hull questioned what would be the next steps if the Commission accepted the changes. Staff recommended a fast track review of the regulations, which would then be sent to the Office of Attorney General, Department of Planning and Budget, Secretary of Commerce and Trade, and finally the Governor for review. This would then be followed by another 30 day period for public comment. Once approved, the changes would be accepted in the Virginia Registrar of Regulations. After some discussion of the proposed changes, Mr. Amyx moved to approve the recommendations presented by staff with one exception: to keep language open on the election of Chair and Vice-Chair. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hull and unanimously passed.

VI. Electronic Participation Policy

Ms. Barker presented to the Commission an Electronic Participation Policy allowing Commissioners to participate in meeting from a remote location that is not open to the public as granted recently during the 2017 General Assembly Session under the Freedom of Information Act. Ms. Barker explained that this policy was provided as a tool for Commissioners in the event an emergency or personal matter and is limited by code to once per calendar year. Mr. Amyx moved to approve the policy; the motion was seconded by Ms. Hull and unanimously passed.

VII. Annexation Study

Mr. Conmy gave an update to the Commission stating that the stakeholders held a meeting in June at the Virginia Housing Center. Staff recommended the stakeholders divide into subcommittees to further develop fiscal and structural recommendations. The next meeting of the Annexation Alternatives study will be Wednesday, September 20th in Charlottesville.

VIII. Governor's Task Force for Local Government Mandate Review

Mr. Conmy stated that the Task Force met on July 27, 2017, and discussed rebenchmarking, school discipline, and local sales tax issues, including marketplace fairness. An interim report will be submitted to the Governor within the next few weeks. A copy of this report will be shared with the Commission at the next meeting.

IX. Other

Ms. Linderman asked was there any other business for the Commission to discuss. There appeared to be no additional items for consideration.

X. Schedule of Regular Meetings

Ms. Linderman noted that the next meeting would be held on September 12, 2017, in the Board Room at the Virginia Housing Center in Glen Allen, Virginia.

XI. Upcoming Events of Interest

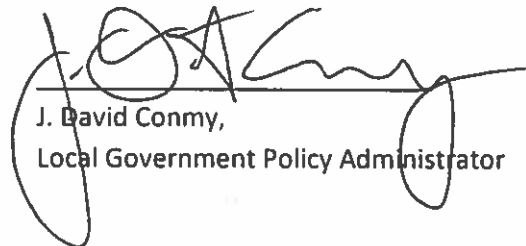
Ms. Linderman reviewed upcoming dates and events of interest for the Commission.

XII. Adjournment

By consensus of the Commission, Ms. Linderman called the meeting adjourned at 4:04 p.m.



Diane Linderman,
Chair



J. David Conmy,
Local Government Policy Administrator