



Ralph S. Northam
Governor

R. Brian Ball
Secretary of
Commerce and Trade

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Erik C. Johnston
Director

DEPARTMENT OF
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Commission on Local Government

July 8, 2021

11:00 A.M.

Richmond, Virginia

Members Present

R. Michael Amyx
Diane M. Linderman, PE, Vice Chair
Rosemary M. Mahan

Members Absent

Stephanie Davis, PhD, Chair

Call to Order

The Commission on Local Government (CLG) Vice Chair, Ms. Diane M. Linderman, called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Mr. David Conmy, Local Government Administrator at the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) initiated a roll call vote. Mr. Conmy informed Vice Chair Linderman that a quorum was present.

Administration

A motion was made by Mr. Amyx and seconded by Ms. Mahan to approve the draft agenda. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Ms. Mahan and seconded by Mr. Amyx to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Commission. The motion passed.

Ms. Linderman recognized Mr. Cody Anderson, Policy Analyst at the DHCD to read public comments submitted to the Commission. Mr. Anderson informed the Commission that no parties had submitted public comments in advance of the meeting. The public comment period was closed.

Mr. Conmy noted the hybrid approach that staff had taken to provide virtual access to the Commission meeting for members of

the public while the Commission and staff met in person. He also made several announcements regarding staffing, including the promotion of staff member Cody Anderson to Policy Analyst and the hiring of Ms. Grace Wheaton and Mr. Legrand Northcutt as Senior Policy Analysts.

Mr. Conmy noted that Mr. Kimble Reynolds had concluded his term on the Commission at the close of 2020 and staff continues to monitor for updates on any possible appointment to his vacant position.

Mr. Conmy provided an overview of various news articles of interest to the Commission.

Notice of City of
Martinsville's Intention to
Petition for an Order
Granting it Town Status
Within Henry County

Mr. Conmy noted that a Memorandum of Understanding regarding a tentative agreement between Martinsville and Henry County had been adopted by both governing bodies that would allow for the creation of a formal Voluntary Settlement Agreement, which both governing bodies would then adopt through supporting resolutions. Mr. Conmy noted that a formal Notice including the Voluntary Settlement Agreement would need to be filed with the Commission and staff in order to formally begin the review process. It was noted that because staff has already had access to some of the materials needed for review, the review timeline could reasonably be abbreviated to conclude in October.

After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Amyx and seconded by Ms. Mahan to adopt the staff-recommended review schedule. This schedule would result in adoption of the final report by the Commission at a special meeting on October 15.

Fiscal Stress Report for
2018/2019

Ms. Grace Wheaton, Senior Policy Analyst at DHCD provided the Commission with a brief status update on staff's development of the Fiscal Stress Report. Ms. Wheaton noted that the City of Hopewell is currently delinquent on submitting their annual audits from FY17-18, FY18-19, and FY19-20.

2021 General Assembly
Special Session II

Ms. Wheaton provided a brief overview of the upcoming General Assembly Special Session. Session will begin on August 2, and the length of the session is yet to be determined. The main priorities of the General Assembly for this session include the appointment of judges and the allocation of American Rescue Plan Act funds.

CLG Mandatory Property
Tax Exemption Study

Mr. Conmy provided the Commission with an update on the Mandatory Property Tax Exemption Study. He noted that the stakeholder workgroup had met once and a public hearing had been held during the March Commission meeting. Since the public hearing, staff sent a survey to all of the localities in Virginia containing questions based on the feedback of the stakeholder workgroup. As of this time, there had been approximately 16 responses. Responses to the survey are due by July 21. The results of those survey responses in addition to other research on the matter will ultimately result in a set of recommendations being developed by staff in tandem with the workgroup and presented to the Commission at the November 4 regular meeting.

Other

There was no other business.

Schedule of Regular
Meetings

Mr. Cody Anderson, Policy Analyst at DHCD, informed the Commission that their next two regular Commission meetings will take place on September 9 and November 4.

Upcoming Events of
Interest

Mr. Anderson noted that the 2021 Virginia Municipal League Annual Conference is scheduled to take place from October 3 through October 5, the 2021 Virginia Governor's Housing Conference is scheduled to take place from November 10 through November 12, and the Virginia Association of Counties Annual Conference is scheduled to take place from November 14 through November 16.

Adjournment

Upon a motion made and duly seconded, the Commission adjourned.