



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

MINUTES

Regular Meeting

Commission on Local Government

11:00 a.m., September 17, 2020

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and public health emergency and the need to provide social distancing and prohibit large gatherings, the meeting was held electronically in accordance with the State of Emergency Declared by the Governor and the 2020 amendments to the 2019 Appropriations Act. The meeting was held via Google Meet.

Members Present

R. Michael Amyx
Stephanie Davis, Ph.D, Vice Chair
Diane M. Linderman, PE
Rosemary M. Mahan, Chair
Kimble Reynolds, Jr.

Members Absent

Staff Present

J. David Conmy, Local Government Policy Administrator
Kristen Dahlman, Senior Policy Analyst
Ali Akbor, Senior Public Finance Analyst
Cody Anderson, Legislative Affairs and Boards Coordinator

Call to Order

The Commission on Local Government (CLG) Chair, Ms. Rosemary Mahan, called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Mr. Conmy noted that due to the Governor's Declared State of Emergency due to COVID-19, it is impracticable and unsafe for the Commission on Local Government to assemble in a single location, so the Commission meeting is being held electronically, by video conference and telephone options, pursuant to 2020 Amendments to the 2020 Appropriation Act. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss or transact the business statutorily required or necessary to continue operations of the Commission on Local Government and the discharge of its lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities. The public is welcome to use the link and phone number options made available by staff to attend the meeting electronically. The Commission on Local Government will make available a recording or transcript of the meeting on its website in accordance with the timeframes established in Sections 2.2-3707 and 2.2-3701.1 of the Code of Virginia.

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I. Administration

a. Approval of the Draft Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Reynolds and seconded by Mr. Amyx to approve the draft agenda. The motion passed. (Yeas: Amyx, Davis, Linderman, Mahan, Reynolds; Nays: None; No-Vote: None)

b. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting on July 9, 2020

A motion was made by Ms. Linderman and seconded by Ms. Davis to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from July 9, 2020. The motion passed. (Yeas: Amyx, Davis, Linderman, Mahan, Reynolds; Nays: None; No-Vote: None)

c. Public Comment Period

Ms. Mahan opened the floor to receive comments from the public. No one from the public appeared before the Commission. The public comment period was then closed.

d. Policy Administrator's report

Mr. David Conmy provided the Commission with an update on the various programs and efforts implemented by the Department of Housing and Community Development to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Conmy also noted that the Virginia Governor's Housing Conference has been transitioned from an in-person conference to a digital only event as a safety precaution given the current public health crisis.

Mr. Conmy noted that Commission staff will be presenting the findings of the Local Vulnerability Analysis with the Government Fiscal Sustainability Workgroup on the 29th, as well as the Local Fiscal Workgroup on October 14th.

Mr. Conmy then provided a brief roundup of news stories of interest to the Commission.

II. 2020 Catalog of State and Federal Mandates on Local Governments

Mr. Anderson provided an overview of the Catalog of State and Federal Mandates on Local Governments, including the process by which it is reviewed, as well as mandates that may be of interest to the Commission. Ms. Dahlman noted that an updated version was shared with the Commissioners than the one previously included in the packet.

A motion was made by Mr. Reynolds and seconded by Ms. Linderman to approve the Catalog of State and Federal Mandates on Local Governments. The motion passed. (Yeas: Amyx, Davis, Linderman, Mahan, Reynolds; Nays: None; No-Vote: None)

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III. **Commission on Local Government: Case Review COVID-19 practices**

Mr. Conmy discussed the potential challenges associated with reviewing a potential Commission case with the current COVID-19 crisis in mind. Mr. Conmy noted that after conversations with staff and council, it is recommended that any case during the public health crisis be reviewed in a purely virtual format.

IV. **2020 General Assembly Special Session I**

Ms. Dahlman and Mr. Akbor gave an update on the General Assembly Special Session, including bills assigned to Commission staff for review and bills assigned for Fiscal Impact Statements. It was noted that the Special Session is still in process and the budget is currently being vetted.

V. **Other**

There was no other business

VI. **Schedule of Regular Meetings**

Mr. Conmy noted that the next Commission on Local Government meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 12th at 11:00 a.m. Staff anticipates that his meeting will be virtual. It was noted that there may be a need to schedule another meeting for later in the year because the Commission is statutorily required to meet 6 times throughout the year and due to the pandemic, the March meeting did not occur.

VII. **Upcoming Events of Interest**

Mr. Conmy relayed to the Commission that upcoming events of interest to the Commission include VML's 115th annual conference, VACO's 86th annual conference, and the Virginia's Governor's Housing Conference, all of which will take place virtually this year.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Linderman and seconded by Mr. Amyx for adjournment. The motion passed and the Commission adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Rosemary M. Mahan,
Chair

J. David Conmy,
Local Government Policy Administrator