

COMMISSION ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Regular Meeting

10:00 a.m., March 12, 2007

Members Present

Harold H. Bannister, Jr.
John G. Kines, Jr.
Frances M. Parsons, Vice-Chairman
Kathleen K. Seefeldt, Chairman

Members Absent

Vola T. Lawson

Others Present

Bill Shelton, Executive Director
Steve Ziony, Principal Economist
Al Williams, Deputy Director for Administration
Bill Ernst, Policy Office Manager
Barbara Johnson, Administrative Assistant

Call to Order

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m., March 12, 2007 in the Board Room of the Department of Housing and Community Development in Richmond, Virginia.

I. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

On the motion of Mr. Kines, seconded by Mrs. Parsons, the members unanimously elected Ms. Seefeldt to serve as Chairman for the ensuing year. On the motion of Ms. Seefeldt, seconded by Mr. Kines, the members unanimously elected Mrs. Parsons to serve as Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

II. Administration

A. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of November 14, 2006

The minutes of the Commission's regular meeting of January 16, 2007 were approved without amendment.

B. Public Comment Period

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

C. Presentation of Financial Statement for February 2007

The Deputy Director indicated that the member's packet for the current meeting contained an internally produced financial statement encompassing expenditures through the end of February 2007. Mr. Williams stated that the financial report covered approximately two-thirds of Fiscal Year 2007, and that Commission expenditures for the eight-month period were \$108,396.86, or 58.3% of the \$309,343 budgeted for the current fiscal year. Members of the Commission discussed various individual budget items, including those related to staff recruitment. The members accepted the report for filing.

III. Executive Director's Report

A. Remarks by Mr. Bill Shelton

Mr. Shelton reported that since its last meeting, the Commission had received no requests for review. In addition, there had been no activities involving previously identified communities with a potential interest in bringing annexation, revenue sharing or other requests to the Commission.

With respect to the mandate review process, Mr. Shelton noted that reports were still being received from the remaining agencies subject to the schedule established by the previous mandate assessment process. The assessment report will be published later in the year once the Department has received complete agency responses.

The new mandate review process, which emphasizes new mandates and major existing mandates will go forward in the spring following the issuance of a new Executive Order.

B. Meeting Per Diem

The Director stated that in accordance with Commission policy on compensation and reimbursement, per diem would be paid to Mrs. Parsons for her travel on March 11, 2007, and to all members present for their service to the Commonwealth on March 12, 2007.

IV. Fiscal Stress Report for 2004/2005

A Report by Mr. Steve Ziony

Mr. Ziony discussed three aspects of the Draft Report on the Comparative Revenue Capacity, Revenue Effort and Fiscal Stress of Virginia's Counties and Cities. He provided a brief review of the underlying methodology for the Report, a discussion of recent developments relating to the critical data sources used by the Report, and an extended review of the principal findings of the Report. In the review of findings, Mr. Ziony called attention to the general trends in per capita revenue capacity, revenue effort, and the overall level of fiscal stress while also pointing out noteworthy exceptions to the general direction of the three categories.

B Commission Deliberation and Action

Commission members discussed various aspects of the Report, focusing, in particular, on data relating to individual localities whose results departed significantly from the general trends noted in the report. Following the discussion,

on motion of Mrs. Parsons, seconded by Mr. Kines, the Commission accepted the Report.

V. Report on Staff Legislative Activities for 2007

A Report by Mr. Bill Ernst

Mr. Ernst reviewed activities of the Commission staff during the recently concluded Regular Session of the General Assembly. He provided a summary of bills for which staff had prepared local fiscal impact statements during the session, noting which bills had failed and which had passed. In addition, the Commission received a summary of charter bills reviewed during the session and their status. Finally, he presented the Commission members with enrolled texts of three bills that would, upon enactment, potentially affect future activities associated with the body. One bill, HB 3202, contemplated a new role for the Commission, calling upon it to mediate and decide disputes between the Virginia Department of Transportation and certain “urban counties” related to the designation of urban transportation district boundaries.

VI. Other

A. Resolution of Recognition

Mr. Shelton presented the members of the Commission with a draft certificate of recognition for George E. “Ted” McCormack, recently retired from service as Associate Director for the Commission. On motion of Mr. Kines, seconded by Mrs. Parsons, the Commission members approved the resolution in concept, subject to further editorial changes, and requested that a final draft be prepared for action by the Commission at its May meeting.

B. National Association of Counties 2007 Annual Conference

Mr. Shelton provided the members of the Commission with information, including registration materials, on the forthcoming Annual Conference of the National Association of Counties (NACo) to be held on July 13-17, 2007 at the Greater Richmond Convention Center. Mr. Kines indicated that he was preparing materials to be submitted to NACo requesting an opportunity for the Commission to participate in an informational session during the Annual Conference.

VII. Scheduling of Next Regular Meeting

The Commission scheduled its next regular meetings for May 14, 2007 at its offices in Richmond and on July 16, 2007 in conjunction with the NACo Annual Conference.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Kathleen K. Seefeldt
Chairman

William J. Ernst, III
Policy Office Manager