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DEPARTMENT OF
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Commission on Local Government

January 5, 2021

11:30 A.M.

Digital Meeting Only

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 2020 Appropriations Act. The meeting was held via Google Meet.

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Call to Order

The Commission on Local Government (CLG) Chair, Ms. Rosemary Mahan, called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

Mr. David Conmy, Local Government Policy Administrator for the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) 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.

Administration

Chair Mahan opened the floor for nomination for Chair of the Commission. Mr. Amyx nominated Dr. Davis for Chair. The nomination was seconded by Ms. Linderman. Hearing no further nominations, the floor was closed. Dr. Davis was elected Chair of the Commission (Yea: Amyx, Mahan, Linderman; Abstentions: Davis).

Chair Davis opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair of the Commission. Mr. Amyx nominated Ms. Linderman for Vice Chair. The nomination was seconded by Ms. Mahan. Ms. Linderman was elected Vice Chair of the Commission (Yea: Amyx, Davis, Mahan; Abstentions: Linderman).

A motion was made by Ms. Linderman and seconded by Ms. Mahan to approve the draft agenda. The motion passed (Yea: Amyx, Davis, Mahan, Linderman).

A motion was made by Ms. Mahan and seconded by Ms. Linderman to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on November 12, 2020. The motion passed (Yea: Amyx, Davis, Linderman, Mahan).

Dr. Davis 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.

Mr. Conmy announced that Ms. Kristen Dahlman had assumed the position of Policy and Legislative Director at the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. Ms. Dahlman briefly greeted the Commission.

Mr. Conmy noted that Commissioner Reynolds' term ended at the conclusion of 2020 and that he will keep the Commission up to date on the status of an appointment for this new vacancy.

Mr. Conmy updated the Commission on the status of the Martinsville Reversion case and noted that both the City of Martinsville and Henry County were working together to reconcile

issues relating to reversion and that the parties were in the process of lobbying the General Assembly for a possible package to help offset the costs of reversion.

Mr. Conmy briefly presented various news articles of interest to the Commission.

Municipal Utility Data Report

Mr. Cody Anderson, Legislative Affairs and Boards Coordinator at DHCD presented the Municipal Utility Data Report. The report, which was required by the 2020 Appropriations Act, measured arrearages accumulated by customers within municipal utility systems statewide, as well as the amount and different types of funding that had been utilized to offset those arrearages.

A motion was made by Ms. Linderman and seconded by Ms. Mahan to approve the report as submitted. The motion passed (Yea: Amyx, Davis, Linderman, Mahan).

Fiscal Stress Report 2018/2019

Mr. Ali Akbor, Senior Public Finance Analyst, presented an update on the Fiscal Stress Report. Mr. Akbor noted that staff was missing data from several localities for the report. The Commission was informed that due to legislation passed in 2020, the reporting deadline for localities for the report was extended, which will stretch the timeline completion to the July Commission meeting.

2021 General Assembly Session

Mr. Conmy informed the Commission that the 2021 General Assembly Session was due to begin on January 13th. The length of the 2021 Session is to be determined, but initially it was planned to be between a 30 and 45 day Session. Mr. Conmy also summarized a few of the bills of interest to the Commission.

Mr. Akbor summarized the process for completing Fiscal Impact Statements for any bill that may have a fiscal impact for localities. These summaries are conducted by local volunteers who estimate possible fiscal impacts of bills based on four different categories: finance, education, general laws, and local government. Mr. Akbor noted that this year staff had recruited 72 total volunteers for the Fiscal Impact Analysis process.

Schedule of Regular Meetings

Mr. Conmy noted the next meetings of the Commission will be Monday, March 22nd through Wednesday, March 24th, 2021. These meetings both align with the Commission's regular meeting schedule as well as oral presentations and a public hearing for the Martinsville Reversion case.

Upcoming Events of Interest

It was noted that 2021 General Assembly Session was set to begin on January 13, 2021. Also of note is the VACO, VML, VAPDC, and Virginia Rural Center collaborative Local Government Day will be taking place as a WebX online platform on January 28, 2021.

Other

There was no other business.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Linderman and seconded by Ms. Mahan for adjournment. The motion passed and the Commission adjourned at 12:31 p.m.

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