

Commission Members present: John H. Fisher, III, Chair; Joseph V. Doria, Jr.; Marvin Reed; Robert F. Casey; Gary Passanante; Steven M. Cozza; Joseph Donahue.

The minutes of the May 6, 2009, meeting was approved unanimously. Gary Passanante abstained.

Robert F. Casey continued his presentation of May 6, 2009: Several municipalities are studying consolidation. The Wantage-Sussex Borough report is online. Medford Township and Medford Lakes Borough are studying consolidating police departments. Swedesboro and Woolwich are also studying police consolidation. Lebanon Borough was looking to other municipalities' police departments for specialized police services, but ultimately went with the State Police on fee basis. The Chester's are looking at consolidation.

Mr. Casey continued with his "Almost Donut Hole" Report again looking for both negatives vs. positives especially in current tax structure; police and public safety.

He reviewed seven counties and discussed 36 municipalities to either explore further for possible consolidation or to abandon because of lack of connectivity.

General Discussion:

Several Commissioners raised questions about the Commission's data review process. The first discussion was on the goals to be obtained thru these studies and whether the information would be published. Several Commissioners indicated that the data was seeking to identify benchmarks to identify municipalities that should be further reviewed to determine if a merger was feasible and realistic. Also the data may provide information on reasonable service levels and cost structures for municipalities.

The question was raised if the information and lists presented at the meetings were a public record. Commissioner Doria indicated that the list is conceptual and a public record because it was created at public meetings. It is a starting point to determine where we would like to further explore.

A Commissioner raised the issue of the role of ethnicity in the data base and the criteria being used to ascertain which municipalities may be candidates for mergers. Mr. Casey indicated that demographics were included as one of many factors in the data base but not a deciding factor in the selection process.

A Commissioner requested that the Department of Education be contacted to provide further information on their merger responsibilities and the DFG rating factors.

LUARCC Reorganization:

Vote on the Chair: Mr. Fisher was re-elected unanimously.

Vote on Secretary: Stacy Spera was re-elected unanimously.

General Discussion – Public Portion

David Wasson: Medford Lakes Borough. What constitutes 24/7/365 police coverage? Mr. Casey explained criteria: at least 10 officers and 2 supervisors.

Michael Powers: Medford Lakes Borough. He is opposed to police merger with Medford Township but indicated that Council is in favor of a police merger.

Gina Santore: Camden County Shared Services Coordinator. Explained the school situation in Merchantville.

Michael Keating: Medford Lakes Borough. Are Mr. Casey's criteria available to the public? Mr. Casey said that they can be sent to Mr. Keating.

Public portion closed unanimously and adjournment.