

LUARCC members present: John H. Fisher, III, Chair; BettyLou DeCroce; Marvin Reed; and Robert F. Casey.

Minutes of the July 21, 2010 - On a motion by Mr. Casey seconded by Mr. Reed the minutes of the July 21, 2010 meeting were unanimously approved.

Executive Director's Report

Acting Executive Director informed the members of changes to the Commission web site including the addition of a general "links" section as well as a "News" section.

Acting Executive Director informed the Commission members that due to funds being placed into reserve by the Office of Management and Budget, funds were no longer available for the pending contract with the Walter Rand Institute at Rutgers, Camden. As a result, that contract is now on hold.

Acting Executive Director discussed a project undertaken during the summer to assist the Commission in deliberation of shared service issues before it. Information from municipal budgets regarding shared services was assembled to allow the Commission to determine the scope and nature of shared services as reported in these budgets for the budget year 2009. During discussion, it was suggested that the information was useful and important, however, on examination; the reported services may not provide a complete picture of sharing. The municipal budget data does not properly account for services provided by counties. Further, many shared activities may not be reflected in reported contracts, but rather exist through other informal agreements between governmental units. These "implied" services may be substantial and, while the fiscal impact may not show in budgets, actual savings may still exist. It was suggested that the possibility of gaining additional data be investigated prior to the next meeting. Additional support for this effort was offered through the office of the Deputy Commissioner of Community Affairs.

Camden County Transformation Initiative. Louis Bezich, Vice President of Administrative Services for Camden County College gave a presentation to the Commission on a project that seeks savings through shared services across county government units. (The presentation is attached.)

Members discussed exploring the possibility for transferring the techniques used in this initiative to other county or regional settings. The county colleges were called a "good neutral messenger" and are not viewed with the same level of suspicion often reserved for State efforts.

Minimum Force Size for Police Services. The Commission discussed the draft Minimum Force Size for Police Services – Mr. Casey moved the acceptance and release of the report. Ms. DeCroce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

In discussion members asked for certain follow-up on this issue as the Commission moves forward.

- 1) Determine how coverage is provided for the towns with no sworn officers
- 2) On State Police covered municipalities:
 - a. Determine and map municipalities to State Police barracks locations
 - b. Review the statute relating to State Police coverage
- 3) Research municipal obligation for providing public safety.

Legislation

The Commission discussed a draft letter from the Commission to the Governor and legislative leadership recommending the lifting of statutory restrictions on the Commission with regard to studying municipalities for possible consolidation located in different legislative districts. Mr. Casey made a motion to approve and send the letter. Mr. Reed seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

A chart was handed to the members that included a list of bills in the Legislature relating to the Governor's "Tool Kit." The chart included a brief description and current status of each bill. Individual bills may be discussed at the next meeting.

General Discussion:

The Chair asked if any members of the public wished to address the Commission. There being none, he asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Casey so moved, the motion was seconded by Mr. Reed. The motion passed by acclamation and the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.