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County of Washington

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March 31, 2017

The Honorable Bud Cook

Room B-15

Main Capital Building

Harrisburg, PA 17120-2169

Dear Representative Cook;

I have been asked by the commissioners to coordinate the proposed meeting between you and the commissioners. If you or your staff could provide me with a couple of dates that you are available sometime after the holiday we will work to set something up.

As to the inquires in your letter for information prior to the meeting:

- First as to your questions about the process and procedures the county follows. I am attaching hereto the guidelines that explains the process and procedures followed. These procedures were originally adopted, in consultation with DCED, in 2009 soon after the passage of the Gaming Act. As you know that Gaming Act placed upon the Commissioners the responsibility and power to allocate the gaming funds following the keystone Principles. Rather than just distributing the money from the county, as the Act provides, the BOC determined it was in the best interest of the county and our taxpayers to develop a creditable, transparent system to administer the funds so working with DCED the present system was developed.
- Minutes – I am not sure what you mean – the Board of Commissioners meeting minutes would include the action taken to make the final recommendation to DCED. I am not sure what records or minutes either the Redevelopment Authority or DCED would have but the RACW would have elaborate files on each application and project. As to the review committee no formal minutes were taken but I am sure the notes of the representative from the legislative delegation would be available to you. This year the representative was Senator Camera Bartolotta.

The commissioners agree that they need a good working relationship with the legislature. The commissioners would like to use the opportunity of this meeting to discuss with you State matters

that are of mutual and extreme importance to the County. Among things the commissioners would like to discuss:

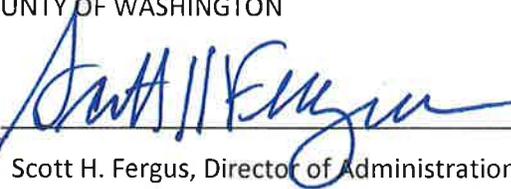
- Status of adoption of the State Budget – in years past delaying passage of the budget has caused harm to the most vulnerable in our community along with the agencies that serve them.
- Proposed cuts to Human Services and other services – if the County is to be mandated to provide the services we need the funds to do so
- Property Tax relief – it has been promised but the promise hasn't been kept
- Reassessment reform – Having just been through a reassessment it is obvious that there are weaknesses in the system that can only be cured by action by the state legislature.
- Pension reform – the county pension is fully actuarially funded through sacrifices made over the years but the state hasn't made the same sacrifices and we understand that we are now in crisis mode - what can be done about the unfunded pension liability.
- Civil Service for CYS – we presently have 12 positions we are unable to fill because of the antiquated state Civil Service System
- Tourism – as you mention something of great importance to Washington County – The Commissioners would like to discuss what can be done to get better state participation in Tourism – Presently Pennsylvania in 49 of 50 state in funding tourist promotion.

With best personal regards, I remain

Very truly yours

COUNTY OF WASHINGTON

By



Scott H. Fergus, Director of Administration

SHF/s

cc– Board of Commissioners

cc - District office