

1 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
 2 LEGISLATIVE REAPPORTIONMENT COMMISSION

3 In re: Public Meeting of the Legislative
 4 Reapportionment Commission

5 VOLUME IV - Pages 182-194

6 Stenographic report of hearing held
 7 in Hearing Room No. 1, North Office
 8 Building, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

9 Friday
 10 June 25, 2021
 11 9:00 a.m.

12 MARK A. NORDENBERG, CHAIRMAN

13 MEMBERS OF LEGISLATIVE REAPPORTIONMENT COMMISSION

14 Sen. Kim Ward Rep. Kerry Benninghoff
 15 Sen. Jay Costa Rep. Matthew Bradford,
 16 (Deputy Commissioner
 17 for Rep. Joanna McClinton)

18 Also Present:

19 Robert L. Byer, Esq., Chief Counsel
 20 G. Reynolds Clark, Executive Director
 21 Brent McClintock, Executive Director, Legislative Data
 22 Processing Center
 23 G. Carlton Logue, Esq. Deputy Counsel, Senate Majority Leader
 24 Chad Davis, Research Analyst, Senate Republican Policy Office
 25 C.J. Hafner, Esq., Chief Counsel, Senate Democratic Leader
 Ronald N. Jumper, Esq. Deputy Chief Counsel, Senate Democratic
 Leader
 Lora S. Schoenberg, Director, Senate Democratic Legislative
 Services
 Rod Corey, Esq., Chief Counsel, House Republican Caucus
 James Mann, Esq., Senior Deputy Chief Counsel, House
 Republican Caucus
 Katherine Testa, Esq., Senior Legal Counsel, House
 Republican Caucus
 William R. Schaller, Director, House Republican District
 Operations
 Michael Schwoyer, Esq., Special Counsel, Deputy Chief of
 Staff for Legislation and Policy, House Democratic Caucus

Reported by:

Ann-Marie P. Sweeney
 Senate Chief Official Reporter

1 Also Present:

2 Justin Klos, Director, House Democratic Office of
3 Demographic Analysis

4 David Brogan, Esq., Director, House Democratic Legislation
and Policy

5 Andrew McGinley, Esq., General Counsel, House Democratic
Government Oversight Committee

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1 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Senator Costa and Senator Kim
2 Ward are in Hearing Room No. 1, and Leader Benninghoff and
3 Representative Bradford should be appearing on the screen
4 momentarily.

5 Good morning, everyone. My name is Mark
6 Nordenberg. I serve as Chair of the Pennsylvania Legislative
7 Reapportionment Commission. The hour of 9 a.m. having
8 arrived, I want to call this meeting of the Commission to
9 order. In doing so, let me welcome everyone who has joined
10 us, either in the Capitol complex or through the livestream.
11 I also should note that a video of this session, as well as
12 the agenda and the resolutions to be considered, will be
13 posted on our website shortly after the meeting.

14 Let me extend special thanks to the other
15 Commissioners who have made time for this brief administrative
16 meeting at what is probably the busiest time of the year for
17 them as they deal with the State budget and a range of other
18 important legislative matters. Given the press of that
19 business, these Commissioners are joining us from various
20 locations within the Capitol complex. That distinguished
21 group includes Senator Kim Ward, the Senate Majority Leader;
22 and Senator Jay Costa, the Democratic Leader of the Senate,
23 who both are in Hearing Room No. 1. It also includes
24 Representative Kerry Benninghoff, the Majority Leader of the
25 House of Representatives. Representative Joanna McClinton,

1 the Democratic Leader of the House of Representatives, is
2 unfortunately speaking at the funeral of a close friend this
3 morning and will not be able to join us. However,
4 Representative Matthew Bradford, the Democratic Chair of the
5 House Appropriations Committee, has joined us to serve as her
6 Deputy this morning. Welcome to you, Representative Bradford.

7 The principal purpose for this morning's meeting
8 is to take some important steps in building the staff that
9 will support our work as we move forward. There are four
10 resolutions on our agenda, and I would propose that we move
11 through them in order.

12 The first of those resolutions calls for the
13 appointment of Cheri M. Mizdail as administrative assistant
14 for the Commission and sets her biweekly salary at \$2,300.00.
15 Ms. Mizdail began working in the Capitol in 1987, and has
16 served in both the House and the Senate over the course of her
17 long career in State government. She currently serves as
18 Administrative Assistant in the Office of Administrative
19 Services in the Senate. Until his retirement, Ms. Mizdail
20 served as Executive Secretary to former Senator John Rafferty
21 for 16 years. I had a long conversation with Senator Rafferty
22 about her performance in that role. In a conversation in
23 which he rarely used anything but a superlative, he gave her
24 an overall grade of A-plus. In her current position, Ms.
25 Mizdail reports to Ann-Marie Sweeney, someone we have

1 discussed in the past and will discuss again momentarily. Ms.
2 Sweeney also assesses her performance very positively.

3 Can I ask if there is a motion to approve the
4 first resolution, which is Resolution 2A?

5 SENATOR K. WARD: I make that motion.

6 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Is there a second?

7 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: I second.

8 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Is there any discussion?

9 (There was no response.)

10 CHAIR NORDENBERG: If not, let me call the vote.

11 All in favor, please say "aye."

12 SENATOR K. WARD: Aye.

13 SENATOR COSTA: Aye.

14 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: Aye.

15 REPRESENTATIVE BRADFORD: Aye.

16 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Aye.

17 Any opposed?

18 (There was no response.)

19 CHAIR NORDENBERG: The motion carries.

20 The second resolution is 2B. At our last meeting,
21 the Commission approved the appointment of Ann-Marie Sweeney
22 as stenographer for the Commission, a role I should note in
23 which she is serving this morning. Her name had barely
24 escaped my lips in that earlier session when Senator Costa
25 declared that she was the best conceivable hire I could ever

1 make, and others weighed in to second that thought. As you
2 know, she currently serves as Chief Official Reporter for the
3 Senate. At that same meeting, more privately, Ms. Sweeney
4 expressed her belief that moving to the Commission full-time
5 would be the best next chapter in her career. And so the
6 second resolution approves her appointment as Director of
7 Administration for the Commission.

8 She has directly relevant experience because she
9 does currently direct an important office within the Senate,
10 and because I am not a Capitol insider, I already have clearly
11 seen how important her knowledge and relationships can be in
12 getting things done. Her biweekly salary will be \$4,780.00.
13 In her case, as was the case with Ms. Mizdail, I simply took
14 their current Commonwealth salaries and increased them by 2
15 percent, assuming that there might be a small increase for
16 State employees over the course of the summer.

17 Is there a motion to approve this resolution?

18 SENATOR COSTA: Mr. Chairman, I proudly recommend,
19 nominate, recommend that we have Ann-Marie Sweeney serve as
20 our Director of Administration. It will be our loss in the
21 Senate, we know that, but I think as you indicated, she has
22 the qualities and characteristics of being an outstanding
23 Director of Administration. Certainly, her talent and her
24 skills are wonderful, but as a person who, as you mentioned,
25 builds relationships is extremely important in this process,

1 so I'm honored to be able to recommend, nominate, or second
2 your motion, whatever it is, I'm there.

3 SENATOR K. WARD: Mr. Chairman, I am also honored
4 to second that motion. That was a motion. Ann-Marie has been
5 such an asset to the Senate, and since I have arrived in the
6 Senate, she has been a steady, steady force there doing her
7 job and making us all feel comfortable, and she is just very
8 professional. I'm glad that she is going to be joining us.

9 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Well, I guess if there is
10 anyone who should feel good about this meeting at its
11 conclusion, it should be Ms. Sweeney.

12 We have a motion and a second. Is there any
13 discussion?

14 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: Mr. Chairman, I just
15 also want to echo those nice comments. She's given great
16 service to our Commonwealth, and I just want to say I
17 appreciate you sending some information ahead of time so we
18 could be even more prepared looking at these nominees in a
19 thorough manner.

20 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you very much.

21 If there's no further discussion, let me ask all
22 in favor of the motion to signify by saying "aye."

23 SENATOR K. WARD: Aye.

24 SENATOR COSTA: Aye.

25 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: Aye.

1 REPRESENTATIVE BRADFORD: Aye.

2 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Aye.

3 Any opposed?

4 (There was no response.)

5 CHAIR NORDENBERG: The motion carries.

6 SENATOR COSTA: Congratulations, Ann-Marie.

7 CHAIR NORDENBERG: At our last meeting, the
8 Commission approved the appointment of G. Reynolds Clark as
9 its Executive Director. At that organizational meeting, I
10 reviewed Mr. Clark's distinguished professional career, first
11 as an executive at Westinghouse, and later as a member of the
12 senior leadership team at the University of Pittsburgh. At
13 Pitt he served as both Vice Chancellor for Community and
14 Governmental Relations, and as Chief of Staff for the
15 Chancellor, making many distinctive contributions and also
16 developing an up-close understanding of State government. Mr.
17 Clark also previously served as an elected mayor in suburban
18 Pittsburgh, and as the appointed Executive Director of the
19 State Intergovernmental Cooperation Authority, which exercised
20 oversight over the finances of the City of Pittsburgh.

21 Because Mr. Clark is not a State employee, setting
22 his salary was not quite as straightforward as were the cases
23 of Ms. Mizdail and Ms. Sweeney. However, the biweekly salary
24 of \$6,475.00, which I recommend for him, is just below the
25 midpoint of the salaries of the Chiefs of Staff for the four

1 Caucus Leaders, which seemed a relevant comparable. Also, I
2 should note that the prior Commission appointed not only an
3 Executive Director but a Deputy Executive Director, and we
4 have no intention of filling that second role in this
5 Commission's staff.

6 Again, I would ask if there is a motion to approve
7 Resolution 2C.

8 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: I make--

9 SENATOR K. WARD: I make that motion.

10 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: Pardon me, I will
11 acquiesce to the Madam Chair.

12 CHAIR NORDENBERG: And is there a second then?

13 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: I will second the
14 nomination by Senator Ward. Thank you.

15 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you very much.

16 Is there any discussion?

17 (There was no response.)

18 CHAIR NORDENBERG: If not, will all in favor
19 please signify by saying "aye."

20 SENATOR K. WARD: Aye.

21 SENATOR COSTA: Aye.

22 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: Aye.

23 REPRESENTATIVE BRADFORD: Aye.

24 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Aye.

25 Any opposed?

1 (There was no response.)

2 CHAIR NORDENBERG: The motion carries.

3 The final resolution also designates Mr. Clark to
4 serve as the Open Records Officer for the Commission. He did
5 serve as Open Records Officer for the State's
6 Intergovernmental Cooperation Authority while serving as that
7 Authority's Executive Director, so he has experience in that
8 role.

9 Is there a motion to approve Resolution 2D?

10 SENATOR COSTA: So moved, Mr. Chairman.

11 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Second?

12 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: I'll second that.

13 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Thank you very much.

14 Any discussion?

15 (There was no response.)

16 CHAIR NORDENBERG: If not, will all in favor
17 please signify by saying "aye."

18 SENATOR K. WARD: Aye.

19 SENATOR COSTA: Aye.

20 REPRESENTATIVE BENNINGHOFF: Aye.

21 REPRESENTATIVE BRADFORD: Aye.

22 CHAIR NORDENBERG: Aye.

23 Any opposed?

24 (There was no response.)

25 CHAIR NORDENBERG: That motion also carries.

1 Looking forward, let me offer just a few quick
2 observations. The space to be occupied by the staff of the
3 Commission should be ready at the beginning of next month. I
4 again want to thank House Parliamentarian Clancy Myer and
5 Leader McClinton for locating that space and making it
6 available to us.

7 I have had almost daily interactions with Brent
8 McClintock, the Executive Director of the Legislative Data
9 Processing Center. The Center will be an important partner to
10 the Commission as we move forward with our work, and I cannot
11 begin to adequately thank Executive Director McClintock for
12 the professional help that he already has provided.

13 Among other topics he and I have discussed,
14 enhancements to the Commission's website, which is maintained
15 by the Center, that will enable citizens to submit suggestions
16 to the Commission as we move forward with our work. We want
17 to make that process as convenient as possible for the people
18 of Pennsylvania, and this will be an important step.

19 I am very pleased with the individuals we already
20 have recruited to the Commission's small staff. My focus now
21 will be on adding someone with mapping, and more particularly,
22 map assessment expertise. Over the course of recent weeks, I
23 have had numerous discussions both with those positioned to
24 make recommendations and with individuals who would be
25 interested in filling this important role. I plan to bring a

1 recommendation to you sometime next month.

2 Finally, and I say this principally for the
3 benefit of the public, the Commission intends to conduct a
4 series of hearings during July and the first part of August
5 before we have received even preliminary Census data. And we
6 almost certainly will have a second stage of hearings after
7 Census data has been received and digested.

8 Consistent with thoughts expressed in our first
9 meeting, we do intend to rely on modern technology to conduct
10 some of these hearings remotely, making it easier for those
11 who are participating to appear before the Commission and to
12 share their views. We will, of course, be giving timely
13 notice of those hearings when they are scheduled.

14 Does any other Commissioner have any comments to
15 make at this point in time?

16 SENATOR K. WARD: None.

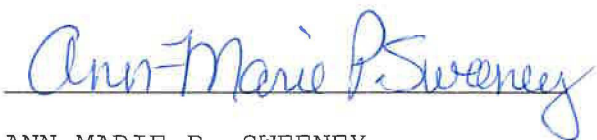
17 CHAIR NORDENBERG: If not, I will end where I
18 began by thanking all of you for making time during this
19 particularly hectic season by wishing you well in your other
20 work and by saying I look forward to reconnecting again soon.

21 And with that, the meeting is adjourned. Thank
22 you, again.

23 (Whereupon, the proceedings were concluded at 9:17
24 a.m.)

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2 I hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence are
3 contained fully and accurately in the notes taken by me during
4 the hearing of the within cause, and that this is a true and
5 correct transcript of same.

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11 ANN-MARIE P. SWEENEY
12 Chief Official Reporter
13 Senate of Pennsylvania

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16 THE FOREGOING CERTIFICATION DOES NOT APPLY TO ANY
17 REPRODUCTION OF THE SAME BY ANY MEANS UNLESS UNDER THE DIRECT
18 CONTROL AND/OR SUPERVISION OF THE CERTIFYING REPORTER.

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EXHIBITS

Resolutions
2021 Pennsylvania Legislative Reapportionment Commission
June 25, 2021

Resolution Regarding Administrative Assistant
Resolution 2A

It is hereby resolved that Cheri M. Mizdail be appointed Administrative Assistant of the Commission and that she be compensated in the bi-weekly amount of \$2,300. She will continue to participate in the Commonwealth health and retirement benefits program.

Resolution Regarding Director of Administration
Resolution 2B

It is hereby resolved that Ann-Marie Sweeney, who was earlier appointed Stenographer of the Commission, also be appointed Director of Administration, and that she be compensated in the bi-weekly amount of \$4,780. She will continue to participate in the Commonwealth health and retirement benefits program.

Resolution Regarding Executive Director
Resolution 2C

It is hereby resolved that G. Reynolds Clark, who was earlier appointed Executive Director of the Commission, be compensated in the bi-weekly amount of \$6,615. He will not participate in the Commonwealth health and retirement benefits program.

Resolution Regarding Open Records Officer
Resolution 2D

It is hereby resolved that G. Reynolds Clark, Executive Director of the Commission, shall also serve as Open Records Officer for the Commission.