

Minutes
Indiana Lobby Registration Commission
Public Meeting
September 16, 2015 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room, Market Tower
10 W. Market Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Members Present: Sue Scholer, Beverly Gard, Joe Micon, and Terry White

Member Unable to Attend: None

Staff Present: Charles Harris, Executive Director & General Counsel, Amy Nicholson, Assistant Director, and Kaytie Barrett, Office Manager.

Others in Attendance: None

Call to Order

On September 16, 2015, the public meeting of the Indiana Lobby Registration Commission was called to order at approximately 1:01 p.m. by the Chairperson of the Commission, Sue Scholer.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner White moved for approval of the minutes of the Commission's Executive Session and its Public Meeting both held on May 6, 2015. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Gard and unanimously approved by a voice vote of the Commissioners.

Late Fees

Mr. Harris reported that all 8 of the late fee appeals filed after May 31, 2015 were resolved administrative by applying the guidelines previously approved by the Commission. He said that \$1,900 had been collected from those 8 lobbyists.

Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Final Budget Report

Mr. Harris reviewed the final budget report for the Commission's fiscal year 2014-2015. He said that actual expenditures totaled \$284,714. He also emphasized that the Commission reverted to the state general fund \$11,286 of its \$296,000 appropriation. He further noted that the reversion amount is in addition to \$344,655 in late fees and registration fees collected from lobbyists and also deposited into the state general fund during fiscal year 2014-2015.

Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget Report

Mr. Harris commented on the status of the Commission's budget for fiscal year 2015-2016. He said that based on information available as of September 4, 2015 the Commission has had actual expenditures of \$52,520. He explained that as of September 4th the remaining balance of the Commission's \$343,728 appropriation was \$291,208, which is 84.72% of the appropriation. Mr. Harris explained that a significant portion of the \$27,146 currently allocated to the Commission's internal reserve results from the new lease negotiated by the Commission, which includes no rent payment for the first five months of the lease and reimbursement for the Commission's relocation expenses. Mr. Harris suggested that it would be wise to consider upgrades in office equipment during fiscal 2015-2016 because of the size of the Commission's internal reserve. The Commissioners voiced their support for using available funds for equipment upgrades.

Database/System Update

Ms. Nicholson indicated that the new system functioned well for the semi-annual activity reports for the first reporting period of the 2014-15 registration/reporting year. She said that the most significant challenge at this time is to make certain that amendments to first period reports properly carry forward to the second period reports and the year end totals. She said that the goal is to correct an existing issue with that carry forward feature within the next ten days. Ms. Nicholson explained that one of the major system enhancements under discussion for the future is the addition of expense tracking software, such as "Concur."

Mr. Harris added that the on-line registration statements for the November 1, 2015 through October 31, 2016 registration/reporting year are being updated. He said that the update is needed because of the new requirement that a lobbyist list any member of the General Assembly who is a relative of the lobbyist on the lobbyist's registration statement.

Staff Reports

Ms. Nicholson distributed a report indicating that there currently are 1,573 registered lobbyists for the November 1, 2014 through October 31, 2015 registration/reporting year. She said 818 are registered as employer lobbyists, and 755 are registered as compensated lobbyists. Her report also indicated that the lobbying expenses reported for the semi-annual period that ended April 30, 2015 totaled \$14,626,459.25, with \$1,610,581.86 reported by compensated lobbyists and \$13,015,877.39 reported by employer lobbyists.

Mr. Harris commented on the presentations that he made to the Governmental Affairs Society of Indiana (GASI) in Michigan City on September 3, 2015 and to representatives of the state colleges and universities at IU-Kokomo on September 9, 2015. He said that the GASI presentation focused on compliance with the dual reporting thresholds for gift and entertainment expense--\$50 or more in any one day and more than \$250 in a reporting year. He noted that the higher education presentation addressed the new reporting requirements for the state colleges and universities under IC 2-7-3.5. Commissioner Gard, who attended the higher education presentation, commented positively on the participation by the higher education representatives.

Mr. Harris also indicated that the new Handbook for State Colleges and Universities had been completed and is posted on the Commission's website. Ms. Nicholson stated that the 2015 edition of the Lobbyist Handbook is mostly done. She said that posting of the final version of the Lobbyist Handbook is on hold until completion of changes to the on-line registration statements. As previously noted, those changes are needed to comply with the new requirement for listing the name of any member of the General Assembly who is a relative of the lobbyist.

Mr. Harris advised the Commissioners that there are ongoing discussions between the House and Senate concerning the definitions of "close relative" and "relative" included in the new legislative ethics legislation. He pointed out that those definitions are incorporated by referenced into IC 2-7, the Indiana Code article administered by the Commission. Mr. Harris also explained the process that staff uses to randomly select the lobbyists who are to be audited for a particular registration/reporting year. In addition, he provided the Commissioners with the list of lobbyists selected for audit for the 2013-2014 registration/reporting year.

Resolution Honoring Jan Abbs

Commissioner White moved adoption of a resolution to honor former Commissioner Jan Abbs for her 21 plus years of service as a member of the Commission, including serving as Chairperson of the Commission for eight of those years. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Gard and unanimously approved by a voice vote of the Commissioners. A copy of the resolution is attached to these minutes as Exhibit A.

Comments

Chairperson Scholer called for comments from Commissioners. No additional comments were made.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Gard moved to adjourn the meeting. Her motion was seconded by Commissioner White and unanimously approved by a voice vote of the Commissioners. The time of adjournment was Approximately 1:50 p.m.

**A Resolution
of
The Indiana Lobby Registration Commission**

Whereas, Jan Abbs served with distinction as a member of the Indiana Lobby Registration Commission from January of 1994 until the date that her resignation from the Commission took effect on February 26, 2015; and

Whereas, Jan Abbs was designated by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate to serve as Chairperson of the Commission for calendar years 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, and 2014; and

Whereas, the entire State of Indiana owes Jan Abbs a debt of gratitude for the dedicated service that she provided for over 21 years as both a member and Chairperson of the Commission; and

Whereas, the current members and staff of the Commission wish to express their sincere appreciation to Jan Abbs for the leadership and guidance that she so ably provided throughout her tenure with the Commission:

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE INDIANA LOBBY REGISTRATION COMMISSION, that:

Section 1. Jan Abbs is hereby designated a Chairperson Emeritus of the Indiana Lobby Registration Commission, which designation includes an open invitation to attend all public meetings of the Commission.

Section 2. A copy of this resolution shall be maintained in the official records of the Commission.

Exhibit A

This is to certify that this resolution was adopted by the Indiana Lobby Registration Commission at its public meeting held in Indianapolis, Indiana this 16th day of September 2015.

This is to further certify that the current members and staff of the Commission are each signing this resolution to evidence their support for the resolution and their appreciation for the service provided by Jan Abbs.

Commissioners

Sue Scholer, Commissioner
& Chairperson

Beverly Gard, Commissioner

Joe Micon, Commissioner

Terry White, Commissioner

Staff

Charles Harris, Executive
Director & General Counsel

Amy Nicholson, Assistant
Director

Kaytie Barrett, Office Manager