

April 24, 2013, Meeting Minutes

The Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel, 201 North Wenatchee Avenue, Wenatchee

The Meeting of the Washington Citizens' Commission on Salaries for Elected Officials was brought to order by Dick Walter, Vice-Chair, at 6:00 p.m.

Commission Members Present:

- Rose Amurao
- Matthew Clark
- James Currin
- Lynda Henderson
- Ned Lange
- Larry Lanning
- Robert Mendez
- Leslie Santana
- Dick Walter, Vice-Chair

Commission Members Excused:

- Michele Adams, Chair
- Gregory Dallaire
- Suzanne Dinning
- Liz Heath
- Erin John
- Kathe Morris
- Justine Winnie

Staff Members Present:

- Teri Wright, Director
- Jenny Sutley, Executive Assistant

Meeting Opening Statement and Approval of the March 27, 2013 Minutes

Dick Walter read the opening statement and asked for approval of the March minutes as written. There was a motion made by Ned Lange to approve the minutes and seconded by Lynda Henderson. The motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Review Meeting Folder Items

Teri Wright went over the meeting folder contents, including a letter from Chief Justice, Barbara Madsen, in response to a question to the administrator of the courts about how pro-se cases have increased in the last 5 years. Also in the folders were updated job descriptions for the Secretary of the State and State Auditor. A letter from Justice James Johnson, states that he believes there should be no increase in the judicial branch salaries. Teri asked the Commissioners to consider this his personal opinion as he does not speak for the Judiciary as a whole.

Dick Walter asked of the judges who were at the meeting if they would like to comment on the reason for a cost of living increase or an increase due to extra work if any. Chip



Small, Chelan County Superior Court Judge, believes that every so often you have to make an adjustment in salaries to catch up; also, they have lost a lot of support staff.

Public Testimony

No members of the public were present to provide public testimony.

Commission Work Session

Teri asked the commission if they felt there was a need to have the state forecaster or the OFM budget manager come to the May meeting. After some discussion between commissioners it was decided that they would like to have the OFM budget manager speak regarding the budget at that meeting. Also at the May meeting will be a compensation expert to give a presentation on the updated Executive Branch Willis Study. The study will be sent to the Commission prior to that meeting as soon as it is completed. The remainder of that meeting will be for public testimony and final salary setting.

Teri let the commissioners know that the Kenya delegation would be held at her office on Monday, April 29 – Tuesday, April 30, 2013. She agreed to take some pictures and update the Commission at the May meeting.

There was some discussion about the amount of time the Legislature spends on their responsibilities and how much of that time is self-generated by sponsoring bills. Also discussed was the Constitutional mandate that the Legislature remain a citizen body and not a full-time Legislature. The Commission bases their salary on the results of the National Conference of State Legislatures that our Legislature spends 70% of a full-time job completely their responsibilities. There was discussion about the Commission's responsibility to set their salary based on the amount of time it takes to perform their responsibilities. The Commission brought up Legislators outside employment. Teri told the Commission that their responsibility is to set the salary of Legislator and is not based on their outside employment.

The Commission asked for some additional information about other states and the differential between levels of the courts. Teri referred the Commission to Tab 12 of the 2013 Salary Setting Binder. There was discussion as to the Courts agreeing to the differential; however it is still the decision of the Commission as to whether we believe it is appropriate.

The meeting was adjourned by a motion by Ned and seconded by Rose Amurao. The motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.



Michele Adams, Chair

5/22/13
Date