

May 18, 2011, Meeting Minutes  
Holiday Inn, One South Grady Way, Renton

The meeting of the Washington Citizens' Commission on Salaries for Elected Officials was convened and brought to order by Dr. Ken Mortimer, Chair, at 9:00 a.m.

### Roll Call of Commissioners

Commission Members Present:

- Michele Adams, Vice-Chair
- Rose Amurao
- James Barrier
- Dale Carlisle
- Sheila Chapman
- Matthew Clark
- Janet Hays
- Elizabeth Heath
- Ned Lange
- Robert Mendez
- Kathe Morris

- Dr. Ken Mortimer, Chair
- Dean Nordstrom
- Dick Walter
- Joy Yake

Commission Members Excused:

- Suzanne Dinning

Staff Present:

- Carol Sayer, Director
- Teri Wright, Executive Assistant

### Meeting Opening Statement and Approval of the April 13, 2011 Minutes

Dr. Ken Mortimer, read the meeting opening statement. Carol Sayer called the roll of Commission members. Dr. Mortimer then asked if everyone had received their copy of the April 13, 2011, meeting minutes and if so where there any changes. Ned Lange motioned to accept the meeting minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Dick Walter and carried by a unanimous voice vote.

### Review Meeting Folder Items

Teri Wright explained that all the items on the right side of the meeting folders were additions to their 2011 Salary Setting Session binder. On the left side were the meeting agendas, contact information, as well as travel forms needed to submit for travel reimbursements.

### Public Testimony

No members of the public were present.



## **Commission Work Session**

Carol Sayer started the work session by letting the Commission know that SHB 1008 was signed by the Governor on May 5, 2011. This legislation allows us to add a member from the new congressional district #10 and any district added in the future. It also broadens our selection base.

Dick Walter asked when the Commission can discuss how we as a Commission balance salaries with the aspect of public service. Carol Sayer said that the Commission can discuss these issues at any time during a work session. She went on to explain that especially for our new Commissioners, the legislation that restricted our meetings from 6 to 4 really did a disservice on issues like this because we haven't had the opportunity for discussions like this. There was a discussion about how the Commission sets salaries that draws qualified people to public service.

Carol Sayer stated that the House and Senate Joint Resolutions that gave the Commission the ability to reduce salaries have all died. There has been one resolution held over for the special session, SJR 8202, but all indications are that nothing will happen with it this year. Carol stated that her only concerns with the implementing legislation, SB 5202, is that it changes the dates that we finish the salary setting business.

## **Arun Raha, Chief Economist, Washington Economic and Revenue Forecast Council**

Mr. Raha stated that recovery remains fragile and is hindered by slow job growth, lagging construction, and high gas prices. The outlook is uncertain due to unexpected geopolitical developments such as the Japan earthquake and tsunami and the Middle-east political tensions. The March forecast lowered expected total General Fund State revenues by \$80 million this biennium (09-11) and \$698 million next biennium (11-13). Revenues since the March forecast have come in above target, mostly because of the Department of Revenue amnesty program. However, revenues are expected to grow 13.8% between the 09-11 and 11-13 biennium.

The Commission asked that, pursuant to a prior conversation, that we ask for legislation in the fall that will give the Commission the ability to reduce salaries. Either that is to ask that SJR 8202 be reintroduced or have our own legislation drafted. Teri Wright will address this issue.

Carol Sayer mentioned that there is still a likelihood that the Commission's staff will be moving to a new location this summer or fall. We will need to work with the agencies we are co-located with to find another building.

Teri Wright talked about the Commission's budget and that we don't have a budget yet, but hope to have one prior to June 30<sup>th</sup>. If there is not a budget by that time the office will be closed until a budget is enacted.

The Commission began its discussion about salary setting.

Jay Yake motioned and Rose Amurao seconded that the Executive Branch receive no increase for 2011 or 2012. The following is the roll call vote:

<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Michele Adams	X		
Rose Amurao	X		
James Barrier	X		
Dale Carlisle	X		
Sheila Chapman	X		
Matthew Clark	X		
Suzanne Dinning			X
Janet Hays	X		
Elizabeth Heath	X		
Ned Lange	X		
Robert Mendez	X		
Kathe Morris	X		
Ken Mortimer	X		
Dean Nordstrom	X		
Dick Walter	X		
Joy Yake	X		

**The motion passed unanimously.**

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Sheila Chapman motioned and James Barrier seconded that the Legislative Branch receive no increase for 2011 or 2012. The following is the roll call vote:

<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Michele Adams	X		
Rose Amurao	X		
James Barrier	X		

<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Dale Carlisle	X		
Sheila Chapman	X		
Matthew Clark	X		
Suzanne Dinning			X
Janet Hays	X		
Elizabeth Heath	X		
Ned Lange	X		
Robert Mendez	X		
Kathe Morris	X		
Ken Mortimer	X		
Dean Nordstrom	X		
Dick Walter	X		
Joy Yake	X		

**The motion passed unanimously.**

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Matthew Clark motioned and Dean Nordstrom seconded that the Judicial Branch receive no increase for 2011 or 2012. The following is the roll call vote:

<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Michele Adams	X			
Rose Amurao	X			
James Barrier	X			
Dale Carlisle	X			
Sheila Chapman	X			
Matthew Clark	X			
Suzanne Dinning				X
Janet Hays			X	
Elizabeth Heath	X			

Commissioner	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Ned Lange	X			
Robert Mendez			X	
Kathe Morris	X			
Ken Mortimer	X			
Dean Nordstrom	X			
Dick Walter	X			
Joy Yake	X			

**The motion passed with 13 affirmative votes.**

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**The Commission went in to Executive Session**

The meeting was brought back to order.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m. with a motion by Janet Hays, seconded by Dale Carlisle and carried with a unanimous voice vote.

*Kenneth P. Mortimer*

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Dr. Ken Mortimer, Chair

June 15, 2011

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Date