

WHATCOM COUNTY COMMISSION ON SALARIES  
FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS  
Tuesday, January 31, 2023, 4:00 PM  
Virtual Meeting

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present: Beth Vonnegut, Linda Stone, Michael Anderson, Lance Calloway, Dewey Desler, Karen Funston, Jeremy Irwin, Lori Province, Rebecca Shaddix  
Members Absent: James Runyon  
Staff/Guests Present: Stacey Carroll, Facilitator; Steve Oliver, County Treasurer

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Facilitator Stacey Carroll at 4:11 pm.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Carroll did rollcall and introductions were made of each member present.

3. OVERVIEW OF COMMISSION DUTIES

- Comments from Facilitator regarding the founding Ordinance (Ordinance 2012-08);
- Timeline review and due date for finished product: May 1<sup>st</sup> due to County Council. The results will take effect for the time period 1/1/24 through 12/31/25
- Everyone was encouraged to go to the website which is an excellent resource:  
<https://www.whatcomcounty.us/576/Salary-Commission>

4. OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT TRAINING

- Expectations for Boards and Commissions volunteer members
- OPMA requirements for open public meetings; Ms. Carroll will send link to members for completion of this brief training
- Commission meetings will begin with open public comment period.

5. SELECTION OF CHAIR PERSON AND VICE CHAIR PERSON

- Ms. Carroll commented on the use of Roberts Rules of Order for meetings
- Nomination and voting:
  - Motion made by Lance Calloway to nominate Dewey Desler as Chair, seconded by Beth Vonnegut. A brief discussion followed. Ms. Carroll called for a vote. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.
  - Ms. Carroll passed over the meeting to Dewey Desler who accepted the position of Chair.
  - Motion was made by Lori Province to nominate Lance Calloway as Vice Chair; seconded by Chair Desler. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

6. INFORMATION REVIEW

Comments and primer from Facilitator about the mandated tasks of the commission members and review of the process and responsibilities, including reviewing facts, data and biases regarding elected officials and compensation. Ms. Carroll has sent members the methodology and data points that have historically been reviewed (this was part of the Agenda packet).

Lance Calloway asked that commission members receive updated information about State legislators' salaries as well as Superior Court Judge (which ties to Prosecutor salary). Chair Desler

asked the group if there is other information that would be helpful for the commission to request from county HR. Beth Vonnegut commented we should check on state legislators and whether or not there may new legislation being considered related to salaries. Also, it would be helpful to have more details on the comparison factors (FTE's, cost of living, etc.) between various counties. Chair Desler suggested we ask that Melissa Keeley, from county HR, come to the next meeting to address some of these questions. Also, elected officials will be asked to participate in future meetings in order to address the commission directly.

Ms. Carroll noted she will be sending corrected data following the meeting today. There will be more information included which will address some of the questions on methodology of arriving at salary levels.

## 7. FUTURE MEETINGS

Chair Desler commented on the last Salary Commission meeting schedule and advocated for more meetings for this years' work, recommending that meetings be held every two weeks. The day of the week was considered and it was requested that Ms. Carroll send out a proposed meeting schedule for meetings every other week on a Wednesday or Thursday. At the next meeting elected officials may be invited.

Chair Desler made a motion that the quorum will be set at 6 members for meeting attendance; motions by a majority must be passed with 4 positive votes. However final Work product votes would still require the vote of 6 members. The motion was seconded by Michael Anderson. Vote was taken and motion passed unanimously.

For the good of the order, Chair Desler added another motion: At every meeting we open with public comments and set the comments to a time limit of 3 minutes. Additionally, please set a specific time for elected officials to speak, note this in the agenda. The motion was seconded by Michael Anderson. Vote was taken and motion passed unanimously.

Comments: Chair Desler asked County Treasurer Steve Oliver if he had comments at this point. Mr. Oliver expressed appreciation to the commission members for their time and efforts, briefly introduced himself and said he'll offer additional comments at a later meeting.

Chair Desler invited new commission members to address any questions regarding materials review to either himself or Stacey Carroll. OPMA rules will be reviewed and Ms. Carroll was asked to provide a checklist of what is NOT allowed in terms of communications. Individual email inquiries may be made to her but she said any discussion of ideas must take place during the regularly scheduled meeting. A reminder to all to complete the OPMA online training as soon as possible.

Adjournment: motion to adjourn made by Lori Province, seconded by Lance Calloway; vote taken and the motion passed unanimously – meeting adjourned at 5:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Mildner,  
Executive Boards and Committees Clerk  
Whatcom County

MINUTES APPROVED at the 2/16/23 meeting.