

State Officers Compensation Commission Meeting

November 15th, 2022, 1:00 p.m.

550 W. 7th Ave., Suite 1970

Meeting Minutes

Members:

Kurt Olson

Aryne Randall (telephonic)

Carrigan Grigsby

Lee Cruise

Larry Persily (telephonic)

Others present:

Kate Sheehan, Department of Administration, Secretary

Amory Lelake (Representative Edgmon's Office staff)

I.

CALL TO ORDER

Kate Sheehan called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

II. Overview of Commission Requirements for the Current Year

DISCUSSION:

Discussion started on whether they should engage the Legislature or just give them the Commission's recommendations and Mr. Cruise was adamant that he did not want to seek their input as they had previously unanimously rejected the Commission's attempt to adjust per diem and salaries. Mr. Cruise suggested that they offer additional per diem payments if and only if the Governor calls the legislature into a special session. Mr. Olson reminded the Commission that the higher cost of living in Juneau is an issue. Mr. Cruise went on to propose that they change their salaries to be more tax advantageous with a higher per diem, but a lower salary. He is proposing using the federal per diem rate multiplied by 90 days as a fixed amount. He proposed that the legislators who receive per diem payments get paid for the full 90 days even if legislative session ends sooner than that. Mr. Grigsby pointed out that regular session can last 120 days and the recommendations for per diem amounts should reflect that and not the 90 days. Mr. Cruise conceded that it should be calculated at 120 days and that there should be a cap of 100k per session and that they must submit their receipts for reimbursement and then receive the remainder/unused of the per diem amount at the end of session. Director Sheehan reminded the Commission that they need to get their preliminary findings and/or final recommendations to the legislature within 10 days of session starting. Or that they can hold off on the legislature piece and only submit recommendations for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Commissioner's salaries. Mr. Cruise stated that he was tired of delaying and

wanted the Commission to come to decisions today. Mr. Persily and Mr. Olson reminded him that they are not prepared to make a vote today.

It was confirmed that they will only propose salary changes for the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Commissioners to the upcoming legislative session. Director Sheehan confirmed with the Commission that they intended to increase their salaries by 2% per year to account for inflation as well as account for the years that they received no increase. She also reminded them that HB226 passed to give a 5% COLA to Exempt and Partially Exempt employees effective October 31st, 2022. This does not affect the Commissioners salaries, but it was discussed that it does exemplify the need to give increases to their salaries so that Directors are not being regularly paid at a higher rate than Commissioners due to their recent pay increases. The Commission discussed and agreed to using CPI (Consumer Price Index) to adjust salaries. Mr. Cruise motioned that they raise the salaries of the bodies as such; Commissioner to \$168,833, Governor to \$176,016, Lt. Governor to \$139,602. Director Sheehan called the role and all members voted yes. Director Sheehan reminded the Commission that they will be required by statute to meet next year. The Commission briefly discussed how other states pay their Commissioners and legislators.

III. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

Another Commission meeting was scheduled for Thursday December 15th at 1:00p.m. at the Atwood Building suite 1970.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.