



April 19, 2017, Meeting Minutes  
Radisson Gateway, 18118 International Blvd, Seattle

The meeting of the Washington Citizens' Commission on Salaries for Elected Officials was brought to order by Dorothy Gerard, Chair, at 6:06 p.m.

**Commission Members Present:**

Greg Dallaire, Vice Chair  
Michael Donabedian  
Dorothy Gerard, Chair  
Liz Heath  
Steve Isaac  
Wayne Jiang – Phoned in at 6:00 p.m.  
Patrick Pavey  
Linda Peterson  
Don Robinson

LeAnna Chauvin – Phoned in at 6:10 p.m.  
Steven Starkovich  
Larry Turner  
Dick Walter  
Karen White

**Staff Present:**

Teri Wright, Executive Director  
Lindsay Matthews, Executive Assistant

**Commissioner Members Excused:**

Melissa O'Neill Albert  
Sarah Mahoskey  
Raymond Miller

Teri took roll call. Lindsay went over the meeting folder contents, including additions to the Commissioner's binders.

Teri confirmed that no members of the public were present, so the Commission moved into a work session. She gave an update on the Commission's budget. Currently the Commission is in the House and the Senate's budget. She also got an update from RaShelle Davis, the Governor's Policy Advisor, regarding office space for the Commission. RaShelle is working to get the Commission a space by the end of June at no cost to the Commission until the funding can be secured.

Teri mentioned the letter that was sent out to elected officials in February and let the Commissioners' know we have received a reply letter from the Superior Court Judges Association and the District and Municipal Court Judges Association. She read the Superior

Court Judges Association letter. Lindsay read the District and Municipal Court Judges Association letter. The Commission is thankful for their support.

Teri then went over the current legislation affecting Elected Officials. She first spoke about House Bill 1042, it would eliminate a report that the Office of the Insurance Commissioner did each year. She read from an email supplied to the Commissioners to help them understand what the report was and how removing it will affect the Insurance Commissioner's Office. She added that it looks like House Bill 1042 will pass.

Liz asked: Does this report affect the responsibilities of the Insurance Commissioners' position? Teri replied by reading from the email directly; "The study currently cost the State General Fund \$527,000 per biennia, because of the complexity of the work requires OIC to contract for assistance with a large part of the work. In addition, this survey take up a significant amount of time for the OIC in house staff."

Liz asked: So you asked that question, but they didn't answer it, did they? Teri replied that it affects his staff but may not affect his position personally. She then let the commissioners know that she did print and bring the report for them to view it.

Teri then moved onto House Bill 1886, which involves the office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The person she spoke to told her the House wrote the Bill, then the Senate made changes to the Bill, then it went back to the House for them to approve it, but the House is not accepting the changes. She did say that even if the Bill passes how it is currently written (which it is not) but if it were to pass the responsibilities of the OSPI most likely would not change. She stated that the things that may be legally transferred to OSPI, OSPI is already doing. If there are any changes it is in legality not in what their functions are or what they are already doing. Overall it doesn't look like it will pass but if it does it will not change the responsibilities of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Liz asked: Where is legislation on McCleary? Teri replied that she can speak only about the budget, and there is not much. The House did their budget and sent it to the Senate and the Senate is currently refusing to look at it. The Senate representatives sent the House their budget and the House is refusing to look at it. Sounds like they may be at a stalemate.

Dick added that the key issue is a tax issue. In the House they want to raise taxes, generally on business, and there is push back from the Senate. The end result is teacher pay, funding education and local levies.

Teri added that there has been legislation passed, she thought, to take care of the levy cliff.

Patrick added that they did take care of the levy cliff. But the issue that keeps coming up in some districts, is too much of the wages are covered by the levies which is part of the problem. But they did take care of the levy cliff.

Liz asked: Do we think that if McCleary gets resolved it would change the Superintendent of Public Instructions responsibilities? Teri replied that she thinks that from what we have heard it does.

Teri then asked the Commissioners who they would like to request to speak at the May Commission meeting, for clarifications for the Commissioners decision making process.

Dick replied that he'd like someone from OFM.

Teri will request that someone from OFM come to the meeting, she reminded the Commissioners that requesting someone to come speak at our meeting does not guarantee they will be able to attend.

Liz would like the Governor to come to the meeting, as she recalls the Governor has not come to speak in the 8 years she has been with the Commission.

Greg would like to have RaShelle Davis, the Governor's policy analyst come to speak again and someone to explain the Forecast analyst from the Economic and Revenue Forecast Counsel's office.

Dick added that someone from the Governor's office and someone from AG office.

Greg added that it would be interesting to see what the difference is between our AG office versus other states offices. Some states are structured differently. Teri clarified that Greg was asking for the 12 comparable states. He was. She said staff will work on getting that information before the next meeting.

Larry asked: Do we know if legislature will pass any increases to the SPI's responsibilities? Teri replied that is what was voted on in January, that there was an increased responsibility to the SPI position.

Discussion ensued regarding the proposed Governor's budget and the proposed House and Senate budgets.

Teri added that in the Senate's proposed budget, the 6% over the Biennia State employee's raises were not included, but that it is in the proposed House budget.

Liz added that she would like to see someone from OSPI, because at the January meeting the person that spoke to the Commissioners was not from OSPI.

Teri asked if the Commissioners had a chance to review the March meeting minutes and if there were any changes that needed to be made. No changes were voiced. Karen moved to approve the March meeting minutes, Greg seconded. March meeting minutes were approved with a unanimous voice vote.

Teri requested that the Commissioners please request the travel they are due for coming to the Commission meetings, as volunteers on the Commission they are allowed this small reimbursement. It also affects the travel budget when it is not requested. If it appears that we do not need the money it will be removed, then in the following years Commissioners will request the reimbursement and we will not have the money in the budget.

Dick asked: Can the date please be put onto the forms before being given to the Commissioners? Lindsay replied absolutely.

Greg asked: Will the May meeting be televised? Teri replied we are not sure at this time due to the location. We are working on plans to get TVW to Sea-Tac to televise it.

Steven mentioned he would like to see the AG's salary compared to other Attorneys in the Cities and Counties. Teri replied that staff will work on that information for the Commissioners before the next meeting as well.

Michael asked: What will staff provide to Commissioners in regard to the AG salary? Teri replied that staff will work on getting AG's salaries, the number of staff and structure compared for the 12 comparable States versus Washington State. As well as AG's salaries in Washington Cities and Counties.

Michael asked: Can the Commissioners also get Washington's AG salary, number of staff and structure compared to the top 10 other AG's offices as well? Teri replied staff can work on that as well.

The Commissioners voiced that that would be great information.

Teri then verified the new information the Commissioners want to get.

Liz asked: Isn't there so many variables to the top 10 AG's salaries? Teri replied there are, but she will look at how many staff and how the office is structured.

Liz asked: Would another factor be State population? Dorothy replied not necessarily. Teri replied she will do her best to find out.

The April meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m. by Dorothy.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dorothy Gerard". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Dorothy Gerard, Chair

May 17, 2017

Date