



March 22, 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 Chair, Dorothy Gerard, at 6:03 p.m.

Commission Members Present:

Greg Dallaire
Michael Donabedian – Phoned in at 6:15 p.m.
Dorothy Gerard
Liz Heath
Wayne Jiang – Phoned in at 6:00 p.m.
Sarah Mahoskey
Raymond Miller
Patrick Pavey
Linda Peterson

Don Robinson
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
Steve Isaac
LeAnna Chauvin

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

Teri introduced RaShelle Davis, Policy Advisor to the Governor and Shane Hamlin, Budget Assistant with the Office of Financial Management (OFM).

Shane thanked the Commissioners for their work. He spoke about the presentation the Commission received in January from Jim Crawford the Assistant Director of Budget at OFM and how Mr. Crawford gave an overview on how the State budget is built in Washington. Shane then talked about the proposed budget that was just released from the Senate and let the Commissioners know that the proposed House budget is scheduled to be released next week. He also spoke about a few specific things that were included and a few things that were not included.

Greg asked: Did the Governor's budget include Central Service costs that were not included in the Senate budget? Shane replied yes, it did.

Dick asked if he heard right that the current proposed budget does not include funding the general wage increase for state workers. Is the sentiment that there will be no general wage increase? Shane replied that the Senate not funding the general wage increase is just a starting point for the session, the collective bargaining is already done, so there will be no changes. Legislation can only fund it or not fund it, there is no more bargaining.

Linda asked: Isn't the crux of it how Legislation will pay for McCleary? Shane replied that McCleary will drive a lot of the funding decisions. We will know more next week after the House releases their budget.

Steven spoke briefly about the Commission staff working from their homes and having records stored at their homes. RaShelle replied that she is as concerned as the Commissioners and are talking about different alternatives. Shane added that finding a place for the records and getting them out of staff homes is a priority.

Dick added another piece affecting staff is them not having access to other state workers, which leaves them at a disservice. RaShelle replied that having that community of other managers would be a great resource for both employees. RaShelle explained what she and Shane's positions are and how they can support the Commission.

Liz invited them both to our May meeting.

Shane added that he would encourage the Commission members to use RaShelle as a resource and an advocate. From an operations and policy side she is a huge asset for the Commission.

Shane then spoke about what the Commissioners can do to influence the budget. He thinks that the meeting with Senator Rossi had a positive impact on the budget. He asked if the Commission had met with someone in the House about the budget, and if so what was the feeling. Teri replied that the Commission has, she said she felt that they thought the Governor's budget was sufficient for now. She did let them know that while the Governor's budget was a step in the right direction, it was not enough. She also mentioned most State legislators would not think that 1.3 FTE fully funded was unreasonable.

RaShelle added that it might be a good idea to have a coordinated discussion about reaching out to members of the House that are leaders in each legislative district. She encourages the Commission to come up with a strategy so that members are aware of the Commission and its budget needs.

Shane added the timing is now, because the House budget is coming out next week, in person is better, but however it can happen will help.

Teri added that due to Wayne living farther away, she attended in person while Wayne was on the phone. Wayne handled the meeting very well.

RaShelle added that another option would be writing a letter to key legislators, the speaker as well as the budget writer of the House.

Shane added that the Commission has a good talking point because it is in the Senate budget, so the Commission would have to spend a short time explaining what it does, then ask them to support Senate level funding for the Commission. It's not a lot of money and it's a 1/3 of an FTE. It's making sure they know that what's in the Senate budget ensures that the Commission can perform its duties and that the Commission has proper staff.

RaShelle said that even after the House budget comes out the Commission still has an opportunity to advocate and meet with members to keep pushing the agenda to make sure they understand the importance of funding the Commission.

Dorothy asked: Will the people who negotiate begin meetings after the House budget comes out? Shane replied that they will negotiate until each chamber has passed a budget off the floor. He believes the Senate wants to pass its budget tomorrow (3/23/17). Once both chambers have passed their budgets, and they need to pass all the associated bills, then they can start negotiating because both sides will have done everything they need to do and there is something to start comparing.

Dick mentioned that's where the Commission lost funding last time. When he and Teri made the presentation to the House they had the money in the budget but when it got to the combination of the two it disappeared. Shane replied that is was likely because the Senate didn't have it in their budget. So it is already in the Senate budget, but even if the House puts it in their budget the Commission will still have to stay vigilant and watch the process, but if it comes out in the House budget that's a really good sign that it'll make it all the way through especially because it is such small dollars. As long as it's in both budgets the Commission will just need to continue to monitor it, follow up, and touch base with the legislators to let them know what the Commission does.

RaShelle offered to help the Commissioners in any way she can, if the Commissioners have any questions or concerns to feel free to contact her. She then thanked the Commissioners for all they do.

Teri thanked both Shane and RaShelle for coming and for all their help.

Teri mentioned that there are two people from the public at the meeting, but they do not want to testify but if they have any questions to let the Commission know. She then moved on to legislation affecting elected officials. There are two bills that may affect elected officials. Teri went over House Bill 1886 with the Commissioners. This bill looks at the Superintendent of Public Instruction, it does not specify the changes to the job responsibilities, to diminish or increase, the bill only shows that a task force will be set up.

Greg mentioned that the bill shows that it was first read in February 2017. He then asked: Do we know what has happened with the legislation since then? Teri replied that she does know that it is moving forward. It went from the House, and it is now in the Senate.

Greg asked: Is there a companion bill in the Senate? Has it passed through the committee process? Did it make the deadline? Teri replied yes. It has passed through the committee process.

Teri then spoke about House Bill 1042. It sounds like the Insurance Commissioner's office did a reporting each year, and now they are taking away that reporting from the office. In terms of work load, she is not sure officially what that means, but she assumes that if you did a report and worked on it, and now they don't want that report any longer, it would reduce the work load.

Patrick asked: Does Teri have any idea if we will know more by May on the two bills? Teri replied we should. She thinks we will know if it has passed or not by the Commissions meeting in May.

Liz Heath asked: Can the Commission request the Superintendent of Public Instruction to come back to speak about the impact of the proposed bill? Teri replied that she will make that request.

Larry asked: Would it be possible to request last year's annual report, so the Commission can see how large the project is? Teri replied we can, or we may even be able to find it online. She will find out about both of those items.

Dick offered to get some information regarding the SPI.

Teri added that would be great, but the Commission will still request for the SPI to come speak to us again.

Teri then talked about the Commission's new Facebook page. It is active and ready, the Commissioners can like and share the page. It is "WaCCSEO" because the site made it have the "a" instead of just the acronym of WCCSEO.

Teri then asked the Commissioners to read through the meeting minutes from January and February for approval. After the Commissioners read through the minutes Teri asked for any corrections needing to be made. Liz asked that on page 25 of the January meeting minutes be reword it to say she "recused herself". Steven asked that on page 8 of the January minutes, "are" be changed to "is".

Raymond moved to approve the January meeting minutes, Karen seconded. January meeting minutes passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Greg moved to approve February meeting minutes, Liz seconded. February meeting minutes passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Steven asked: If we must approve a final salary schedule in May, what is the nature of the June meeting? Teri replied the June meeting is a conference call and it is just to approve the May meeting minutes.

Greg moved to adjourn the meeting, Liz seconded. The motion unanimously passed and the March meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.



Dorothy Gerard, Chair

April 19, 2017
Date