

March 27, 2013, Meeting Minutes
Red Lion (at the Quay), 100 Columbia Street, Vancouver

The Meeting of the Washington Citizens' Commission on Salaries for Elected Officials was brought to order by Michele Adams at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present:

- Michele Adams
- Rose Amurao
- Matthew Clark
- James Currin
- Gregory Dallaire
- Liz Heath
- Lynda Henderson
- Erin John
- Ned Lange
- Larry Lanning
- Robert Mendez

- Kathe Morris
- Dick Walter
- Justine Winnie

Commission Members Excused:

- Suzanne Dinning
- Leslie Santana

Staff Present:

- Teri Wright, Director
- Jenny Sutley, Executive Assistant

Meeting Opening Statement and Approval of the February 27, 2013 Minutes

Michele Adams read the opening statement and asked for approval of the February minutes as written. There was a motion made by James Currin to approve the minutes and was seconded by Ned Lange. The motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Review Meeting Folder Items

Teri Wright went over meeting folder contents, including additions to commissioner binders and the meeting agenda.

Public Testimony

Judge Steve Warning, Cowlitz County Superior Court Judge, commented that the superior court judges are doing more with fewer resources due to state cuts and county budget cuts. Handling more self-represented cases take much more time and paperwork which they are doing themselves. He also commented that they are losing good judges to the private sector.

Judge Barbara Johnson, Clark County Superior Court Judge, supports the proposed salary increase. She also mentioned the extra work created by not having office clerks.

Judge Gary Bashor, Cowlitz County Superior Court Judge, feels that if they can't keep good judges on the bench, the public will lose faith in what the judges do. He also commented that judges often go above and beyond their job behind the bench to help the citizens, as well as work many late hours.

Commissioner Work Session

Teri mentioned that she met with the OFM Human Resources. The updated Willis Study will be ready by May 10, 2013.

Teri brought up the article in the Tacoma News Tribune saying that she felt blindsided by the process. She had many conversations with the Secretary of the Senates office which they never mentioned that the information they were requesting was part of a public disclosure request. She commented that she wouldn't change what she said or how she said it. It would have been nice to know that the information she was giving would be in the paper. The fact that her opinion was called suspect was offensive.

Liz brought up the possibility of having a new Willis Study done for the judicial branch. After some discussion between commissioners it was decided that it is not necessary.

The meeting was adjourned by a motion by Ned and seconded by Liz Heath. The motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.



Dick Walter, Vice-Chair



Date