

**THURSTON COUNTY**  
**WASHINGTON**  
SINCE 1852

## COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

John Hutchings  
District One

Gary Edwards  
District Two

Tye Menser  
District Three

## HUMAN RESOURCES

### **THURSTON COUNTY CITIZENS' COMMISSION ON SALARIES FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Special Meeting Minutes – December 9, 2019

Members present: Chair Karen White, Bill Ireland, Rafael Lozano, Travis Matheson, and Cary Randow.

Members excused: Charles Baker and Megan Walsh.

Staff present: Ruth Elder and Cameron Mullins.

Others present: Terry Ballard, County Commissioner Gary Edwards, County Clerk Linda Myhre Enlow, Sara Gentzler, Robert Haskel, Mary Kincy, Jon Pettit, Mrs. Randow, and other unidentified persons.

Chair Karen White called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Welcome and Introductions: The Commission members and staff introduced themselves.

Public Hearing on Proposed 2020 Salaries for Elected Officials: Chair Karen White opened the public hearing. She reviewed the Commission's process and recognized those who signed up to offer public comment.

Jon Pettit addressed the Commission and provided handouts. Mr. Pettit shared his concerns about the vacancies on the Commission. He contended that the Commission is not meeting the state legal requirements. He noted that the Board of County Commissioners has not appointed a Legal Representative to the Commission in more than a year. Mr. Pettit criticized the amount of the proposed salary increases and stated that elected officials in neighboring counties are paid less.

County Commissioner Gary Edwards addressed the Commission. He thanked the Salary Commission members for their service. He stated that he served five terms as Sheriff and is in his first term as County Commissioner. Commissioner Edwards read the statement that he made at the Salary Commission's meeting on November 20, 2017. He reiterated that elected officials know the salary when they sign up to run for the office. Commissioner Edwards stated that the salary should be reviewed and adjusted at the end of the term before the elections.

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Terry Ballard addressed the Commission. He thanked the Salary Commission members for volunteering. He stated that he spent 35 years following regulations. Mr. Ballard stated that ten Commission members are required and only five members are here tonight. He stated that the proposed salaries are very unfair, as military retirement is only going up 1.6 percent. He stated that there should be a cap on the salaries. Mr. Ballard stated that the Board of County Commissioners and the Auditor's Office let the Commission down. He expressed concerns about the meeting being held at 6:00 PM, as opposed to 7:00 PM.

Robert Haskel addressed the Commission. He stated that he is here to oppose the raises. He reported that this is his third meeting since he became a Thurston County homeowner. He stated that his taxes have gone up \$100 per month. Mr. Haskel stated that the Thurston County Commissioners can't budget and that he does not get a raise every year. He stated that the County Commissioners are the ruling class and that the citizens only receive the bill. He stated that they are in positions of power and authority, but they are not doing their jobs. Mr. Haskel stated that they are destroying families and small businesses and chasing out retired people.

Approval of the Minutes of November 18, 2019: **M/S/P TRAVIS MATHESON/BILL IRELAND That the minutes of the November 18, 2019, meeting be approved as submitted.**

#### New Business

- a. Set the 2020 Salary for the County Commissioners: The Commission members discussed the proposed salaries and the Salary Commission's role. **M/S/P RAFAEL LOZANO/CARY RANDOW That the County Commissioners' salaries be set at \$10,549 per month for an annual salary of \$126,588.**
- b. Recommend to the Board of County Commissioners the 2020 salaries for the Assessor, Auditor, Clerk, Coroner, Prosecuting Attorney, Sheriff, and Treasurer: **M/S/P CARY RANDOW/RAFAEL LOZANO That the Salary Commission recommend to the Board of County Commissioners a salary of \$10,549 per month for an annual salary of \$126,588 for the Assessor, Auditor, Clerk, Coroner, and Treasurer.**

**M/S/P TRAVIS MATHESON/RAFAEL LOZANO That the Salary Commissioner recommend to the Board of County Commissioners a salary of \$13,033 per month for an annual salary of \$156,396 for the Sheriff.**

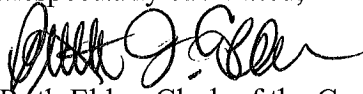
**M/S/P TRAVIS MATHESON/BILL IRELAND That the Salary Commission recommend to the Board of County Commissioners a salary of \$15,915 per month for an annual salary of \$190,980 for the Prosecuting Attorney.**

- c. Commission Directions to Staff Regarding Information for the Next Meeting: The Commission members discussed the information that they would like to consider for the next meeting.

Next meeting date: The Commission announced that the next meeting will be held at 6:00 PM on Monday, July 20, 2020, in Building 1, Room 152 of the Thurston County Courthouse.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ruth Elder", written in a cursive style.

Ruth Elder, Clerk of the Commission