



BOARD ON LEGISLATIVE COMPENSATION

Minutes of Meeting
October 17, 2017
9:00 A.M.

Members present:

Mr. Wesley L. Milbourn, Chairman
Mr. Kenneth R. Roper, Member
Mr. Mike E. O'Neal, Member
Mr. Andrew McDonald, Member
Mr. John George, Member
Mr. Brian Bush, Member
Mr. Bill Sims, Member
Mr. Keith Cochran, Member
Commissioner Steve Burrage, Ex-Officio Member

Members not present:

Mr. Christian Brim, Member
Mr. Preston L. Doerflinger, Ex-Officio Member

Others attending:

Susan Perry, Office of Management and Enterprise Services, Recording Secretary
John Gilbert, Office of Management and Enterprise Services
Shelley Zumwalt, Office of Management and Enterprise Services
Denise Northrup, Office of Management and Enterprise Services
Lyn Martin-Diehl, Attorney General's Office
Shawn Ashley, ECapitol
Sean Murphy, AP
Janelle Stecklein, CNHI newspapers
Caroline Dennis, Senate

The Board on Legislative Compensation met on October 17, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in Rooms 214 and 216 on the 2nd floor of the Will Rogers Building due to the scheduled power outage at the State Capitol. The meeting was brought to order by Chairman Milbourn, roll was called and a quorum was declared.

Chairman Milbourn asked if the meeting was held in accordance with the Open Meeting Act and Susan Perry, the recording secretary, confirmed that it was.

The Chairman asked if there were any comments or changes to the Meeting Minutes of the October 20, 2015 meeting. There being none, the Chairman asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes as they are written. Mr. O'Neal so moved and Mr. Roper seconded. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

Chairman Milbourn asked John Gilbert with the Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES) to give the presentation on the overview of the duties of the Legislative Compensation Board, the past and current Oklahoma compensation levels, and how they compare to other states.

After Mr. Gilbert's presentation, Chairman Milbourn opened it up for discussion. Milbourn started the conversation with bringing up the option of a reduction in legislators' salary due to several reasons including the state's recession and that special session had to be called. The Chairman asked Assistant Attorney General Lyn Martin-Diehl if that was legally an option for the Board to consider. Martin-Diehl stated the Board had the authority and referred to Oklahoma Constitution, Article 5, Section 21B that states: "Said Board shall each two years review the compensation paid to the members of the Legislature and shall be empowered to change such compensation; such change to become effective on the fifteenth day following the succeeding general election."

All the members present were provided an opportunity to comment and ask questions. There was discussion among the members regarding if a change was made when it would be effective and which budget year it impacted. Also discussed was how the current budget issues and the state's economic climate is affecting other state employees and the citizens of the state. Members further discussed the option of reducing legislators' salaries or just leaving it as it currently is. Questions were raised on how to determine the percentage of a decrease if one was voted on. It was agreed that further information was needed from OMES to make a decision on whether or not to reduce the salaries of the legislature.

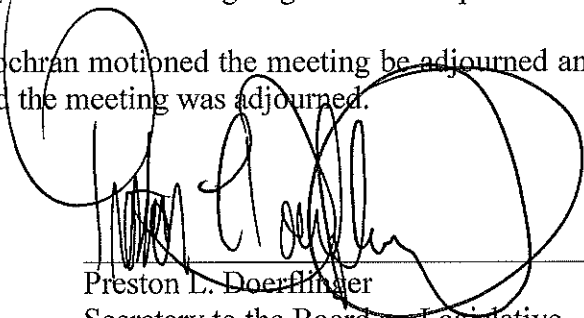
A question was raised and directed at the Assistant Attorney General Martin-Diehl if the Board had the authority to meet more frequently than every two years. Martin-Diehl stated that she would need to research that question further. A member suggested that the meeting be adjourned for now and reconvene at a later date. The Chairman discussed that would give OMES time to gather additional information regarding different percentages and comparisons to other cuts seen in state government. Martin-Diehl informed the Board that if they were planning to reconvene at a later time the Board needs to go ahead and set up the date and time now. A discussion was had among the members on when to reconvene. Mr. Roper made a motion for compensation to remain as is until the Board reconvenes in January. Mr. O'Neal seconded the motion and all members were in favor so it passed.

The Chairman wanted it noted in the minutes that this Board is definitely keeping an eye on the performance of the legislators. The date set for the Board to reconvene and review the additional information prepared by OMES is Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. The Board discussed what additional information they would need from OMES to evaluate the legislators compensation like the overall economy, what is happening in appropriations, and how we compare to other states.

Martin-Diehl did inform the Board that they have the authority to call additional meetings other than the biennial meeting. Mr. Bush wanted to express that he had a lot of respect for the legislators and for what they do but that it was wise for the Board to look at this considering other state agencies, state employees and citizens have been seeing the reality of the cuts. OMES stated that they could have the information to the Board by mid-December and it was made clear that Board members could not discuss amongst themselves the material before the meeting. However, they could ask for clarification from OMES. Since no changes were made at this meeting to the compensation of the Oklahoma Legislature, it was not necessary to sign an Order Setting Legislative Compensation.

There being no other business, Mr. Cochran motioned the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Roper seconded. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

10.30.2017
Date



Preston L. Doerflinger
Secretary to the Board on Legislative
Compensation