

**Erie County Salary Review Commission
Meeting #5 Minutes
September 23, 2014; 8:30am**

Meeting was held on September 23, 2014 at 8:30am in room 1404 (Department of Public Works Conference Room) of the Rath County Office Building at 95 Franklin Street.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Robert Glaser, chairman, Owen Patrick Brady, Laurie Buonanno, James Wagner, William Ransom, Jr., Dennis Jewell, and Robert Graber.

SUPPORT STAFF

Mark Cornell, Erie County Executive's Office, Timothy Callan, Erie County Division of Budget and Management, and Julie Becht, Freed Maxick CPAs.

OTHER ATTENDEES

No members of the public were in attendance. However, a photographer from WGRZ was in attendance

AGENDA

Old Business

- Approval of Minutes from previous meetings

New Business

- Continued Feedback
- Final Report and Recommendations Issuance on September 30th
- Other

OLD BUSINESS

Minutes from the meeting was approved by a unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Bob Glaser began the meeting by reviewing additions to worksheets that were made. Specifically averages among members and a chair recommendation were developed to be discussed.

Each member gave their impression of the chair's recommendations and whether they believed they should be higher or lower. This led to a substantial discussion in an effort to come to a consensus regarding differing opinions relating to the Clerk, Sheriff and Comptroller recommendations, while there was general agreement regarding the Legislature and County Executive.

After continued discussion it was agreed to increase the recommendation for the sheriff slightly while reducing the Clerk recommendation and keeping the Comptroller's static.

Discussion moved to the draft report and the possibility of additional recommendations. One suggestion was whether giving additional options for the legislature to consider would make it more likely to take up action on these proposals. Some of those proposals included advocating for a public referendum vote, raises being held until the next term for office holders, discouraging outside employment for officeholders, etc. Additionally there was discussion of forecasting possible items of consideration or greater research when the current commission reconvenes in 2 years.

There was also discussion on whether or not to invite the legislature to propose additional items for the commission to consider going forward which was met by spirited discussion among members.

Discussion rounded back to the specific salary recommendations of the chair and a motion was by Bob Graber made to amend those for the Sheriff and Clerk, seconded by Jen Persico. Unanimously approved.

A motion to approve the final recommendation report, subject to everyone seeing a clean version was made by Bob Graber and seconded by Jen Persico. Unanimously Approved

At this point Jen Persico had to leave due to a prior engagement (9:50am).

Several additional motions were offered and subsequently withdrawn after further discussion regarding several numbered recommendations in the draft report.

A motion to delete recommendation #2 of the draft recommendation report pertaining to outside employment was made by Jim Domagalski and seconded by Bob Graber. Unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Bob Graber to approve the final report via email as opposed to meeting in person on September 30th and seconded by Bill Ransom. Unanimously approved.

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN

Bob Glaser would be responsible for making amendments to draft report based on the will of the commission and would forward it to all members for final approval via electronic mail. Once approval is made the report will be disseminated to the County Executive and Legislature per the Charter and the local media afterwards.

Based on previous discussions an effort will be made to meet with the Buffalo News editorial board to discuss their work and recommendations near the time of final issuance.

Tim Callan and Mark Cornell will work to produce final charts and spreadsheets for the report and appendices. Laurie Buonanno will also clean up a copy of her worksheet detailing her regression analysis for the final report.

NEXT MEETING

There will be no further meetings of the Salary Review Commission until it reconvenes in 2016. The final report will be released on September 30th.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:41am.