



# COUNTY OF ERIE CITIZENS SALARY REVIEW COMMISSION MINUTES

**September 25, 2018, 11:30 a.m. Meeting**

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Present: Chair Laurie Buonanno, Donald Allen, Michael Lukasik, Jerry Newman, Louis Panzica, Tiffany Perry (arrived at 11:39), William Ransom, and Christopher Stone.

Absent: Owen Patrick Brady.

Support Staff: Scott Bylewski and Mark Cornell, both from Erie County Division of Budget and Management.

Non-Members Present: Brian Poliner and Ross Kostecky.

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Meeting Notes: A quorum was present and meeting called to order by Chair Buonanno at 11:37 a.m.

Motion made by J. Newman, seconded by C. Stone to approve the minutes of September 18, 2018; motion carried unanimously by all members in attendance.

T. Perry arrived at 11:39 a.m.

Chair Buonanno began the discussion of the meeting with the Legislature while maintaining the anonymity of its members.

D. Allen mentioned that neither the Majority nor Minority seem inclined for increases in salary. M. Lukasik mentioned that politically it did not seem to work. D. Allen stated that some Legislators view their positions as full time and no increase in salaries since 1996. Chair Buonanno said in 2014 two negatives against increases were the economy and the Commission did not completely recognize salary disparity.

Chair Buonanno mentioned that Legislators discussed how large their individual constituencies were in comparison to legislators in other counties. D. Allen expressed the Legislators' concern that voters will remember Legislators voting for their own increase since their terms are two years as opposed to four.

C. Stone indicated that the Legislature may be interested in raises for other elected positions. Chair Buonanno mentioned looking at local municipalities to compare with the County. Further, the County Legislators' salaries were more than one standard deviation above the mean. C. Stone and Chair Buonanno will collect information for the local municipalities.

Based on the information to date, and the Commission's timetable, Chair Buonanno called for a motion

regarding salary increases. Motion made by T. Perry, seconded by D. Allen to recommend an increase of 3 percent each year for six years for all elected positions; motion carried by those in attendance 7-1 (L. Panzica opposed). L. Panzica believes that 3 percent is arbitrary and not sure it actually “catches the salaries up.” After further discussion among the Commission members, Chair Buonanno expressed a desire for the Commission to have a unanimous recommendation, so she asked for Commission members to forward to the Commission’s staff what they believed the salaries for each position should be. These numbers will be discussed at the next meeting.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by L. Panzica, seconded by J. Newman; motion carried unanimously by all members in attendance.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 12:52 p.m.

Next Meeting: September 25, 2018, at 11:30 a.m.