



COUNTY OF ERIE CITIZENS SALARY REVIEW COMMISSION MINUTES

October 9, 2018, 11:30 a.m. Meeting

Present: Chair Laurie Buonanno, Donald Allen, Owen Patrick Brady, Michael Lukasik, Jerry Newman, Louis Panzica, William Ransom, and Christopher Stone.

Absent: Tiffany Perry.

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

Non-Members Present: Ross Kostecky, Brian Poliner, Jessica Schuster and media representatives from television stations WIVB and WGRZ.

Meeting Notes: A quorum was present and meeting called to order by Chair Buonanno at 11:34 a.m.

Motion made by C. Stone, seconded by D. Allen to approve the minutes of October 2, 2018, with corrections made on the last page to indicate that the meeting adjourned at 1:12 pm and that the next meeting would be October 9, 2018, at 11:30 a.m.; motion carried unanimously by all members in attendance.

J. Newman acknowledged Chair Buonanno and her outstanding work as Chair. D. Allen echoed the sentiment.

Chair Buonanno thanked all as it was a group effort.

J. Newman offered the following paragraph to be included as the second last paragraph in the executive summary of the Commission's report:

To note the impact of this recommendation on the budget, it is minuscule: \$38,803 or less than 0.002 percent. Indeed, if we had regularly given these officials increases since 1996, the annual impact would have been considerably less than one percent per year.

Motion made by W. Ransom and seconded by D. Allen to include J. Newman's paragraph; motion carried unanimously by all members in attendance.

Commission began talking about a motion to accept the report.

O. Brady mentioned that salaries should be commensurate with duties and talked about a total of approximately \$38,000 to increase salaries that have not changed since 1996 in comparison with other counties.

L. Panzica indicated that he felt wages should increase between 30 and 50 percent, but the proposed wage increases would be more palatable to the legislature.

D. Allen echoed L. Panzica's comments about a higher recommended salary increase than in the report and further compared how County Clerk and County Sheriff salaries were lower than local municipal clerks and chiefs of police.

C. Stone expressed the hope that the Legislature would deliberate based on the office and not personalities.

Chair Buonanno stated that the salary comparisons were a mix of science and art, because no other county in New York State was completely comparable. Somewhat comparable is Monroe County, and Monroe County has substantially higher salaries. Further comparisons with other counties showed Erie County's salaries are low, except for the Legislature. The art involved taking conservative numbers.

W. Ransom stated that the report includes information the Legislators asked to be included.

Chair Buonanno read an e-mail from Tiffany Perry dated October 8, 2018, at 11:09 p.m.:

Laurie, thank you so much for forwarding the final report. Everyone who worked on this report did a fabulous job. As I mentioned before, I will not be able to make the meeting tomorrow but I wanted to send this email in support of the commission's recommendation.

Motion by L. Panzica seconded by C. Stone to accept the final report; motion carried unanimously by all members in attendance.

Chair Buonanno stated that the Legislature will be scheduling a public hearing.

Commission members discussed ministerial matters regarding report typos to be corrected.

L. Panzica stated it was a pleasure working with Commission members.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by C. Stone, seconded by M. Lukasik; motion carried unanimously by all members in attendance.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 12:10 p.m.