

State Officers Compensation Commission Meeting

March 15th, 2023, 1:00 p.m.

550 W. 7th Ave., Suite 1970

Meeting Minutes

Members:

Miles Baker (Governor Appointee, member of the public)

Donald Handeland (Governor Appointee, member of the public)

Larry Ladue (Senate Appointee, member of the public)

Duff Mitchell (Governor Appointee, member of the public; telephonic)

Jomo Stewart –(House Appointee, member of the public; telephonic)

Others present:

Kate Sheehan, Department of Administration, Secretary

Nancy Sutch, Department of Administration (telephonic)

Brook Riley, Department of Administration (telephonic)

I.

CALL TO ORDER

Director Sheehan called the meeting to order at 1:14 p.m. She then performed a roll call of all members present and their respective appointee designations. Mr. Baker moved to elect Donald Handeland as the Committee's new Chair since Kurt Olson resigned. Duff Mitchell seconded that motion. Director Sheehan then performed a roll call and all members voted yes to elect Mr. Handeland as the new Chair. A motion was then made to waive the 20-day ratification notice requirement to the Commission members per AS39.23.500C, all members voted to waive that requirement.

II. Public Testimony

A member of the public, Richard, stated that he thinks that the legislature should not get any raise whatsoever and that the fact that the previous Commission was dismissed and/or resigned hastily and a new Commission appointed, was seen as a rubber stamp to give legislators a pay raise. He stated that the government has failed the residents of Alaska as evidenced by a massive outflow of residents from the state. The Commission then asked if there was anyone else in the room or on the phone that would like to give public testimony and hearing none, the public testimony portion of the meeting was closed.

Duff Mitchell made a motion to amend the SOCC's final report and recommendations made on 01/24/2023, to increase all legislators' annual salaries to \$84,000. Mr. Baker seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken to accept the amended resolution to increase legislator salaries to \$84,000 per year was and all members voted yes.

Mr. Stewart asked for clarification on how the Commission came up with the \$84,000 amount and it was clarified that that figure is exactly half of the Commissioner's salaries, which are \$168,000 annually. Mr. Baker weighed in to express his support for the pay increase due to the expense of operating two homes and other factors. Mr. Stewart also stated that he concurred with the pay increase due to their being a fundamental need, he did however communicate that he wasn't completely comfortable with the process, but that the need for a salary that will be sufficient to maintain a citizen legislature, was justified. Mr. Ladue concurred and asserted that most legislators are working year-round to justify the pay increase.

Director Sheehan asked for a final roll call vote to accept the amended final recommendations to increase legislators salaries to \$84,000 annually. All members voted unanimously to approve. All members voted unanimously to adjourn and that there was no other business before the Commission at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.