



BOARD ON LEGISLATIVE COMPENSATION

Minutes of Meeting
November 16, 2017
1:30 P.M.

Members present:

Mr. Wesley L. Milbourn, Chairman
Mr. Mike E. O'Neal, Member
Mr. Andrew McDonald, Member
Mr. John George, Member
Mr. Bill Sims, Member
Mr. Christian Brim, Member
Mr. Keith Cochran, Member
Commissioner Steve Burrage, Ex-Officio Member

Members not present:

Mr. Kenneth R. Roper, Member
Mr. Brian Bush, 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
Brandy Manek, Office of Management and Enterprise Services
Manny Landaverde, Office of Management and Enterprise Services
Cary Cundiff, Office of Management and Enterprise Services
Lyn Martin-Diehl, Attorney General's Office
Charles McCall, Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives
Bill Jackson, Elk City
Plus various representatives from the Oklahoma House of Representatives, Oklahoma Senate, and media outlets

The Board on Legislative Compensation met on November 16, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. in the Governor's Large Conference Room on the 2nd floor of the State Capitol Building. 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 17, 2017 meeting. The Chairman asked if the date needed to be changed where the meeting was set for January at the last meeting but was moved up to November. Lyn Martin-Diehl informed the Chairman the date should not be changed since that is what actually happened in the meeting and the date change occurred after the last meeting. There being no further comments or changes, the Chairman asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes as they are written. Mr. Brim so moved and Mr. O'Neal seconded. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

Chairman Milbourn expressed the Board's job is to determine the compensation for the 149 members of the Legislature. He stated the Board has the ability to give the Legislature a raise, keep the dollars the same, or decrease their compensation. The Chairman further stated, before he opened the meeting up for discussion, the Board would hear from John Gilbert with the Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES). Mr. Gilbert gave a presentation on regional comparison of legislators' pay and economic metrics plus comparison of legislators' pay with state employees.

After Mr. Gilbert's presentation, Chairman Milbourn reminded the Board of their duty to determine the legislators' compensation and at the last meeting on the 17th the Board kept the salaries the same. Milbourn stated how the Board had received some media attention from their last meeting and that he had even received mail from individuals complementing them for looking at making a change. Then the Chairman opened it up for discussion.

All the members present were provided an opportunity to comment and ask questions. There was discussion among the members regarding what a change in compensation would look like. Members considered how much legislators were paid compared to the amount of days they worked and compared to state employees' pay, the Oklahoma market, and the median household. Concern was raised if the compensation was decreased would it deter future candidates from running for office. There was further discussion on how the current pay was structurally out of line and needed to be changed. Several different percentage amounts were presented during discussion as options for determining a decrease in the legislators' compensation.

The Chairman asked if there was a motion for recommendation. Bill Sims made a motion to reduce the base salary of the legislators, as well as the additional salaries for the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Majority and Minority Floor Leaders, Speaker Pro Tempore of the House of Representatives, one Assistant Majority Leader in the Senate, and the Appropriations Chair in both the House and Senate, by 8.8%. Mike O'Neal seconded the motion. The members voted on this motion as follows:

Keith Cochran – Yes	Mike O'Neal – Yes
Wesley Milbourn – Yes	Bill Sims - Yes
Christian Brim – No	John George - No
Andrew McDonald – No	

Ms. Perry, the recording secretary, informed the Chairman that there were four members voting yes and three members voting no. The Chairman stated so moved. The Chairman thanked the members and declared that it was decided to move the legislators' pay down 8.8% not as a punitive but to bring it in line with similar states and similar pays throughout the region as well as throughout the State of Oklahoma.

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

Dec. 5, 2017

Date

Susan Perry

Susan Perry, Recording Secretary for the
Board on Legislative Compensation