

Snohomish County  
Citizens' Commission on Salaries of Elected Officials  
May 7, 2020

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**Commissioners present:** Shannon Affholter, Ashley Cramer, Joshua Estes, Kate Miyasato, Carol Panagos, Galen Ryan and Kelly Svihus

**Commissioners absent:** Beverly Berg Rood, Michael Boe and Elizabeth Rich

**Staff present:** Susan Neely and Cecilia Wilson

**Location:** Meeting held via Zoom

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The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m.

Susan Neely welcomed the Commissioners and asked each to introduce themselves. She asked if the "COVID-Impact Update" agenda item could be moved up to immediately follow "Open Public Meetings Act." There was consensus to do so.

Susan provided a brief overview about the Commission: its inception, who serves, how they are appointed and basic information.

Cecilia Wilson provided a briefing on the Public Records and Open Public Meetings Acts.

Susan then referred to the letter the Commissioners had received from the elected officials whose salaries are determined by the County's Commission. They asked that the Commission "forgo any increases in elected official salaries" due to the historic economic disruption caused by the COVID-19 outbreak. Susan noted what steps had been taken to date to mitigate the impacts: management and exempt staff annual salary increases were cancelled; a hiring freeze enacted; discussions of a revised budget ordinance to be considered in June; furlough and layoff discussion; projects halted; funding repurposed.

Commissioner Affholter stated that they should respect the elected officials' request. Commissioner Estes agreed, but thought there should be discussion regarding recruitment and retention of diverse candidates. Commissioner Svihus noted that the community served is undergoing such turmoil and these electeds represent that constituency. Commissioner Miyasato agreed with respecting the request.

There was discussion regarding no increase for year one but perhaps one for year two, basic it on some economic factor. The question was asked if the Commission could table the discussion and then reconvene mid-term to consider an increase as well the issue of recruitment and retention. Commissioner Ryan reminded the other Commissioners that the officials had asked for no raise during the two-year period. Commissioner Cramer agreed and said it would be awkward to go against the stated request.

Susan was asked to confirm whether the Commission could meet mid-term. Once that was known, the Commission could determine its ultimate recommendation.

A meeting was set for May 14<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned.