

Compensation Council
Monday, February 13, 2017
1:00 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present:

Thomas Berg, Chair
Dr. James Fox, Vice-Chair
David Asp
Joseph E. Brown, Sr.
MaryLynn Dahlquist
Annie Deckert
Thomas Evenson
Sarah Janecek
Anna Lima
Steven Ludwig
Jessica Macias
Robert Meyerson
Gail Olson
James Robins
Aalok Sharma

Excused:

Keith Swanson

Thomas Berg, Chair, called the Compensation Council meeting to order at 1:03 PM in Room 300 North of the State Office Building. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

Gail Olson moved to approve the Minutes from the February 1, 2017 meeting of the Compensation Council. Seconded. THE MOTION PREVAILED.

Adopt Policies

Greg Hubinger, Director, Legislative Coordinating Commission, presented an overview of the proposed Compensation Council Data Practices Policy for Members of the Public and the proposed Compensation Council Data Practices Policy for Data Subjects.

Steven Ludwig moved to adopt the Data Practices Policy for Members of the Public and the Data Practices Policy for Data Subjects. Seconded. THE MOTION PREVAILED.

Salaries of Judges

Kevin Mark, President of the Minnesota District Judge's Association (MDJA), presented a general overview of the MDJA and spoke to judges' compensation.

Dr. Kristine West, Assistant Professor of Economics, St. Catherine's University, presented an overview of an analysis she conducted on Minnesota judicial salaries titled "Minnesota Judicial State Court Salaries".

Jonathan Jasper, Chair of MDJA Pensions and Benefits Committee, presented on judges' retirement and insurance benefits.

Testimony from Minnesota Management and Budget

Dorilee Leland, Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB), addressed the Council. Ms. Leland stated that MMB does not have a recommendation or position this year related to agency head salaries.

Chair Berg called a recess at 2:24 PM.

Chair Berg called the meeting back to order at 2:35 PM.

Council Discussion

Members discussed the effective dates of the Council's salary recommendations. Chair Berg suggested that the Council ask to have the timing of the effective dates of the Council's salary recommendations moved up to FY18-19.

Gail Olson moved that staff prepare a recommendation, for consideration at the next meeting, to change the effective dates of the Council's salary recommendations. Seconded. THE MOTION PREVAILED.

Gail Olson moved that a recommendation be made to have judges receive a salary increase of: 4.63% effective July 1, 2017; 4.63% effective July 1, 2018; 3.5% effective January 1, 2019 and 3.5% effective January 1, 2020. Seconded.

Nancy Haas, Messerli & Kraemer and MDJA, addressed Council member questions related to the recommendations of the Judicial Council and the recommendations of the MDJA.

James Robins moved to amend the motion to recommend 3.5% each year, for the next four years. Seconded. THE MOTION PREVAILED.

Bob Meyerson moved to amend the motion to recommend a salary increase of: 3.5% in 2017, 3.5% in 2018, 4.63% in 2019 and 4.63% in 2020. Seconded. THE MOTION PREVAILED.

James Robins moved to amend the motion to separate the recommendations for 2017 and 2018 from the recommendations for 2018 and 2019 in the report. Seconded. THE MOTION PREVAILED.

The vote was taken on the Olson motion, as amended, to recommend that judges receive a salary increase of: 3.5% effective July 1, 2017; 3.5% effective July 1, 2018; 4.63% effective January 1, 2019 and 4.63% effective January 1, 2020 and to separate the recommendations for 2017 and 2018 from the recommendations for 2018 and 2019 in the report. THE MOTION PREVAILED.

Members then discussed the salary of the governor as well as the other state government positions affected by the governor's salary.

Next Steps

Members discussed inviting the majority and minority leadership of the Senate Finance and House Ways and Means Committees to address the Council.

Sarah Janecek moved the Council invite the chairs and ranking minority members of the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Committee on Finance, or their designees, address the Council. Seconded. THE MOTION PREVAILED.

It was also determined to invite testimony from the following:

- Jeff Hamiel to speak to the salary of the Chair of the Metropolitan Airports Commission.
- A representative from the Public Utilities Commission to speak to the salary of the Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission.

Next Meetings

Monday, February 27, 2017 at 1:00 PM

Monday, March 20, 2017 at 1:00 PM

Monday, March 27, 2017 at 1:00 PM

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:27 PM.