

Meeting Minutes

Whatcom County Commission on Salaries for Elected Officials

Date: January 29th, 2025

Time: 4:00 PM PT

Location: Virtual Meeting

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 PM by Chair Shaddix.

2. Attendance

Quorum confirmed. Members present:

- Rebecca Sadwick Shaddix
- Guy Occhiogrosso
- Gary Wrightson
- Karen Funston
- Sonya Luhm
- Ralph Foldenauer
- Vanessa Bronsema
- Tracie Gult
- Daniel Darwin

Absent:

- Brennen Brown

3. Public Comment

Citizen, Maya Morales, addressed the commission indicating that she serves on the Whatcom County Charter Review Commission. She reported that the Commission is uncompensated for their time and have no budget for supplies or resources. She reported that the Commission has been meeting for several months and it's a significant amount of time. She requested that this Commission investigate whether compensation and/or a budget could be included in this commission process. Prosecuting Attorney, Eric Richey, who was in attendance shared the contact information for two attorneys at the County that can assist with questions about the process for making a change.

Chair Shaddix made a motion to discuss this at the next meeting of the commission. A Commissioner seconded the motion and all but Commissioner Darwin who abstained voted in favor of the motion. The motion was passed and this topic will be added to the next meeting (2/12/2025).

4. Commission Updates

1. Reminder for Open Public Meeting Training
 - a. Facilitator Carroll gave an update that training needs to be completed every 4 years and if a Commissioner has attended the training through another commitment that training would be sufficient.

- b. Facilitator Carroll reminded everyone to send an email to confirm completion of the training. There was concern raised that no certificate was offered, but Facilitator Carroll said an email confirming completion was sufficient.
 - c. Commissioner Foldenauer requested that the link be resent for the training..
2. Introductions
- a. Commissioner Gulit and Commissioner Darwin introduced themselves to the rest of the Commission.

5. Information Review

1. **Summary Market Data** – Facilitator Carroll let Commissioners know that the Summary Data Document is one that will be maintained to highlight information requested by the commissioners in a single page format. There will also be additional “source documents” which will also be made available to the Commissioners through a google drive. When information is requested, it will be added to the drive and when the Commissioners decide to add information to the Summary Data Document the Facilitator will add it.
2. **Discussion of format** – The Commissioners had feedback on the format of the Summary Market Data document. Facilitator Carroll will make changes as requested.
3. **Monthly vs. annualized salary amounts** – Commissioner Bronsema made a motion to use monthly amounts for the formal records and recommendation but have annualized amounts as needed for demonstration. Commissioner Wrightson seconded the motion and it was passed with Commissioner
4. **Commissioner Data Requests Status Updates**
 - a. Facilitator Carroll walked through the document that shows all data requests made by the Commission. An update was provided on each data request and an overview of where to access the information was provided. Commissioner Luhm requested that the list of data requested with google drive links added underneath each section be provided. Facilitator Carroll indicated she would send that to the Commissioners.
 - b. Comparable Counties – The commission had conversations about how to determine comparable counties and discussed items such as housing costs, wages, living wage, jobs and other data.
 - c. Additional Data Requests – Commissioner Gulit made a motion to request salary data of the positions going back 10 years. It was seconded by Commissioner Wrightson and approved all commissioners in attendance. Commissioner Luhm made a motion to request population data for Whatcom County for the last 10 years. It was seconded by Commissioner Gulit and approved by all commissioners in attendance.

6. Next Steps

1. Facilitator Carroll indicated that information would be shared prior to the next meeting and suggested the Commission might want to spend time discussing the data at the next meeting. She also suggested the Commission consider developing a list of questions you'd like to ask of the elected officials for their written and/or in-person response.

2. Facilitator Carroll suggested that it would be a good idea to let elected officials know they will be invited to an upcoming meeting and recommended having half attend one meeting and half attend another so there is still time for additional business.
3. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 12th from 4-6 p.m.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:59 PM by Chair Shaddix

Prepared by: Stacey Carroll, Facilitator

Approval: These minutes were approved on Wednesday, February 12th 2025 by the Salary Commission.