

**WHATCOM COUNTY COMMISSION ON SALARIES  
FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS**

**MINUTES**

**Thursday, April 20, 2017, 4:00 p.m.**

**Whatcom Transportation Authority  
Board Room  
4111 Bakerview Spur  
Bellingham, WA**

**ATTENDANCE**

Members Present: Mike Arbiter, Kristi Birkeland, Justin Iverson, Steve King, Brian Lydiard, Todd Morris, Jason Russell, Diana Schmidt, Jon Sitkin, Wendy Wefer-Clinton

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Vicki Esser-WTA Executive Assistant/ Clerk of the Board and Commission Administrative Assistant

Others Present: None

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Brian Lydiard at 4:00 p.m.

**B. PUBLIC COMMENT ON PRELIMINARY SALARY PLACEMENTS**

No public comment was received prior to or at the meeting.

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 16, 2017 Meeting**

Wendy Wefer-Clinton proposed a slight wording change. No substantive changes were proposed.

**MOTION BY IVERSON, SECONDED BY ARBITER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 16, 2017 MEETING INCLUDING THE SLIGHT WORDING CHANGE PROPOSED BY WEFER-CLINTON.**

The motion passed unanimously.

**D. DISCUSSION OF SALARY PLACEMENTS**

There was discussion about whether an adjustment beyond the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) is warranted for the Auditor, Assessor, and Treasurer.

Main points of the discussion were:

- The salaries for these positions are well above the average for comparable counties.
- No professional qualifications are required for these positions.
- The County Council is receiving a COLA only
- The salary is based on the position, not the person in it. If an experienced incumbent leaves and a new person is elected, they receive this salary.
- Upon reflection, those who leaned toward an adjustment for these positions felt the decision of the majority of the committee was sufficient.

#### **E. FINAL VOTE ON SALARY PLACEMENTS**

MOTION BY ARBITER, SECONDED BY IVERSON TO APPROVE THE SALARY PLACEMENTS AS WRITTEN IN THE PRELIMINARY DRAFT DOCUMENT.

The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Some members expressed that they are voting for approval of the final document as the will of the Commission, but had reservations about the salary for some of the individual positions.

All commission members signed a cover memo to accompany the salary placements document when it is delivered to the County.

#### **F. NEXT STEPS**

Vicki will scan and email a copy of the signed cover sheet and final salary document to Commission members.

Chairman Lydiard stated that the final salary document will be delivered to the County for processing to become effective January 1, 2018.

Chairman Lydiard encouraged first time Commission members to serve a second term on the next Salary Commission. He thanked all Commission members for their input and effort on the Commission.

#### **G. ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:24 p.m. by Chairman Brian Lydiard.

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Minutes approved by the Commission on 5-18-17.  
Date

**Whatcom County Commission on Salaries for Elected Officials  
Whatcom County, Washington**



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**Brian Lydiard  
Chairman**

**Attest:**



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**Vicki G. Esser  
Commission Administrative Assistant**