BIENNIAL SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COMPENSATION BOARD MEETING
Amended Minutes
October 15, 2019
9:00 a.m.
Senate Conference Room 419-C
State Capitol Building
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

A meeting notice was filed with the Secretary of State and agenda posted in accordance with the Open Meeting Act.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert DeNegri, Governor, Chairman
James O'Dea, Governor
Jonathan Dodson, Governor
Scott Douglas, Governor
Lawrence Neisent, Governor
Alan Jett, Senate
Robert Kane, Senate
Brandon Long, House
Scott Mitchell, House
John Budd, Director of Office of Management and Enterprise Services, State Chief Operating Officer, and Secretary of Agency Accountability
Charles Prater, Chairman of Oklahoma Tax Commission

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

GUESTS: John Gilbert, OMES
Lyn Martin-Diehl, Assistant Attorney General, Counsel to the Board
Beverly Hicks, OMES LCB
Shelly Paulk, OMES
Susan Perry, OMES
Jake Lowrey, OMES
Carmen Forman, The Oklahoman
Shawn Ashley, ECapitol
Christina Hanley, Legis OK
Barbara Hoberock, Tulsa World

1. **Call to Order: [Robert DeNegri, Chairman]**
Chairman DeNegri called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A roll call was taken and a quorum established.

2. **Open Meeting Compliance**: **[Chair]**
Chairman DeNegri was advised that notice of the meeting had been given, and an agenda posted in accordance with the Open Meeting Act**.**

3. Discussion and possible action on the Minutes of November 16, 2017. [Chair]

Chairman DeNegri announced that the November 2017 meeting minutes would not be voted on at this time.

4. Short presentation by the Office of Management and Enterprise Services and possible discussion regarding Board procedures, comparisons of legislative compensation, and history of Board actions. [John Gilbert]

Mr. Gilbert gave a presentation on the constitutional and statutory backgrounds of the responsibilities and duties of the Board. He informed that the changes in legislative compensation made today will not become effective until the following year and shall become effective on the 15th day following the succeeding general election; November 18, 2020.

The Board shall review the compensation paid to the members of the state legislature and if necessary, change the compensation. The Board has the power to decrease, increase, or maintain current pay rate.

The Board may hold such meetings as are necessary, so if a decision is not made today, additional meetings as needed can be made. However, any change in legislative compensation shall be made no later than the third Tuesday of November in the said odd number year; November 19, 2019.

The next meeting of the Board of Legislation Compensation is on Wednesday, October 19, 2021, 9:00 a.m. at the Oklahoma State Capitol, 2300 N. Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, 73105.

Presentation and discussion only. No action taken.

5. Discussion and possible action on changing compensation paid to legislative members of the State. [Chair and Board]

Chairman called for public comment of the meeting. There being none, business continued for discussion and action to set the compensation for the Legislature.

There was discussion by Board members that Oklahoma's legislative pay, compared to other states, is low and that Oklahoma should strive to invest in the brightest from Oklahoma to run and represent our State – whether it is a single parent, someone from the fire department, someone who is retired or someone looking for their first job. Considering the 1998-2017 rate of $38,400 and applying the consumer price index adjustment would convert 1998 dollars into 2019 dollars. A salary of $38,400 in 1998 would be $59,000 in current dollars without a raise.

There was further discussion regarding how to attract future leaders to help lead regardless of age or economic status. The Board inquired as to why legislative compensation was reduced in 2017. Counsel to the Board indicated the minutes would show that the decrease was somewhat a budgetary determination and somewhat punitive to the legislature.

There was additional discussion regarding the effects of a low salary being that we are often recruiting people straight out of college, people about ready to retire or people who are wealthy. We should want people who are smart, resourceful and choose to serve in the Legislature because it is public service without requiring a huge financial sacrifice by their family. These are people who are setting policy for our State, and that should be taken into consideration in making any decision about compensation.

Several members indicated there has been a 64% increase in the Oklahoma median household income over the last twenty years, teachers' salaries have increased but legislative salaries have been cut below 1998 rates. Other members indicated that with regard to the Board's actions regarding compensation – the citizens of Oklahoma would focus primarily on an increased amount when read in the paper. Nonetheless, the Board was charged by the Chair to consider not only what is best for Legislators but also to keep in mind that many Oklahoma citizens have lost jobs/know others who have lost jobs, so the board must find a balance.

Mr. DeNegri motioned to increase the legislative pay to Forty-Two Thousand dollars ($42,000) and increase the two stipends for the additional legislative task equivalent to the same percentage that we are going up on the stipend. He explained that he wanted to restore what was taken away and is approximately a 3% increase in pay from Thirty-Eight Thousand dollars ($38,000). Mr. Kane Seconded the motion.

Mr. Mitchell countered Mr. DeNegri's motion of Forty-Two Thousand dollars ($42,000) and made a motion to increase the legislative pay to Fifty-Two Thousand dollars ($52,000).

Mr. Dodson countered Mr. Mitchell's counter and motioned to increase the legislative pay to Forty-Seven Thousand, Five Hundred dollars ($47,500).

Mr. Mitchell withdrew his motion and concurred with Mr. Dodson's counter amount of Forty-Seven Thousand, Five Hundred dollars ($47,500).

Mr. Dodson motioned to amend the initial motion of Forty-Two Thousand dollars ($42,000) to Forty-Seven Thousand, Five Hundred dollars ($47,500). Mr. Mitchell seconded the motion. The motion passed and the following votes were recorded:

James O'Dea, yes; Jonathan Dodson, yes; Scott Douglas, yes; Alan Jett, yes; Robert Kane, no; Brandon Long, yes; Scott Mitchell, yes; Lawrence Neisent, yes; Robert DeNegri, no.

Motion passed 7-2; ayes have it.

Mr. Jett motioned to restore the salaries of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives to Seventeen Thousand, Nine Hundred and Thirty-Two dollars ($17,932), and to increase the salaries of the Majority and Minority Floor Leaders, Appropriation Chairs in both the House and Senate, the Speaker Pro Tempore of the House of Representatives and the Assistant Majority Leader in the Senate to Twelve Thousand, Three Hundred and Sixty-Four dollars ($12,364). Mr. Long seconded the motion. The motion passed and the following votes were recorded:

James O'Dea, yes; Jonathan Dodson, yes; Scott Douglas, yes; Alan Jett, yes; Robert Kane, yes; Brandon Long, yes; Scott Mitchell, yes; Robert DeNegri, yes; Lawrence Neisent, yes.

Motion passed 9-0; Unanimous.

The change will go into effect on November 18, 2020.

6. Adjournment. [Chair]

There being no further business, Mr. DeNegri made the motion to adjourn. Mr. O'Dea seconded the motion. Seeing no opposition, the meeting adjourned at 9:53 a.m.