



Cole County Clerk  
311 E. High Street, Room 201  
Jefferson City MO 65101  
(573) 634-9101 FAX (573) 681-9678

OCTOBER TERM 8TH DAY  
9:00 a.m.

October 16, 2019

#### SALARY COMMISSION MEETING

**In Attendance were:**

Presiding Commissioner Sam Bushman, Eastern District Commissioner Jeff Hoelscher, Western District Commission Kris Scheperle (by phone), Public Administrator Joe Kuensting, Assessor Chris Estes, Recorder Judy Ridgeway, Auditor Kristen Berhorst, Circuit Clerk Dawnel Davidson, Collector Larry Vincent, Clerk Steve Korsmeyer, Treasurer Eric Peters, Prosecuting Attorney Locke Thompson, Sheriff John Wheeler (Absent), News Tribune Jeff Haldiman, Deputy Clerk Lynne Reinkemeyer, present.

Circuit Clerk Dawnel Davidson called the Salary Commission Meeting to order and asked for a motion to elect Chairman For the Salary Commission.

**MOTION:**

Assessor Chris Estes made a motion to appoint Treasurer Eric Peters as Chairman of the Salary Commission. County Clerk Steve Korsmeyer seconded the motion. The motion passed by a roll call vote of: Presiding Commissioner Sam Bushman (Yes), Eastern District Commissioner Jeff Hoelscher (Yes), Western District Commissioner Kris Scheperle (Yes), Assessor Christopher Estes (Yes), Auditor Kristen Berhorst (Yes), Collector Larry Vincent (Yes), County Clerk Steve Korsmeyer (Yes), Prosecuting Attorney Locke Thompson (Absent), Public Administrator Joe Kuensting (Yes), Recorder of Deeds Judy Ridgeway (Yes), Sheriff John Wheeler (Absent), Treasurer Eric Peters (Yes).

County Clerk Steve Korsmeyer presented a Statement of Revenues and Expenditures (period ending October 9, 2019) to all in attendance to review and discuss. Chairman Peters turned the discussion over to Auditor Kristen Berhorst to explain the Revenues and Expenditures. No one had any questions.

**DISCUSSION:**

Discussion was held regarding the Sheriff's Salary increasing by \$490.80 per year per Statute 50.327.3. Clarification will need to be addressed if this increase would begin in January 2020 or January 2021.

**MOTION:**

Collector Vincent made a motion for the Sheriff's Salary to increase \$490.80 per year. Auditor Berhorst seconded the motion. The motion passed by a roll call vote of: Presiding Commissioner Sam Bushman (Yes), Eastern District Commissioner Jeff Hoelscher (No), Western District Commissioner Kris Scheperle (No), Assessor Christopher Estes (Abstain), Auditor Kristen Berhorst (Yes), Collector Larry Vincent (Yes), County Clerk Steve Korsmeyer (Yes), Prosecuting Attorney Locke Thompson (Yes), Public Administrator Joe Kuensting (Yes), Recorder of Deeds Judy Ridgeway (Yes), Sheriff John Wheeler (Absent), Treasurer Eric Peters (Yes).

**DISCUSSION:**

Discussion was held regarding a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for the Elected Officials and County Employees and the difference between a COLA and Merit salary increase. Elected Officials cannot receive a higher COLA than a County Employee.

**MOTION:**

Auditor Berhorst made a motion that the Elected Officials continue to receive the same Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) as the County Employees. Clerk Korskmeier seconded the motion. The motion passed by a roll call vote of: Presiding Commissioner Sam Bushman (Yes), Eastern District Commissioner Jeff Hoelscher (No), Western District Commissioner Kris Scheperle (No), Assessor Christopher Estes (Yes), Auditor Kristen Berhorst (Yes), Collector Larry Vincent (Yes), County Clerk Steve Korskmeier (Yes), Prosecuting Attorney Locke Thompson (Yes), Public Administrator Joe Kuensting (Yes), Recorder of Deeds Judy Ridgeway (Yes), Sheriff John Wheeler (Absent), Treasurer Eric Peters (Yes).

**DISCUSSION:**

Discussion was held regarding a 4% increase in pay for Elected Officials taking office in 2021 (Associate Commissioners, Sheriff, Treasurer, Assessor, Public Administrator). Chairman Peters asked (for example) if Elected Officials could possibly receive a 2% COLA and County employees receive a 1% COLA and 1% Merit increase. As mentioned earlier in the meeting, Elected Officials cannot receive a higher COLA than County Employees. Clerk Korskmeier polled 12 First Class Missouri Counties Elected Officials salaries and Cole County ranked 10th. Assessor Estes spoke about Elected Officials salary being a recruitment tool for qualified individuals to run for office and there are some 2nd and 3rd Class Counties with salaries higher than Cole County Elected Officials.

**MOTION:**

Clerk Korskmeier made a motion that the incoming Elected Officials taking office in 2021 will receive a 4% pay increase, that's 1% a year for the 4 years they are in office. Public Administrator seconded the motion. The motion failed by a roll call vote of: Presiding Commissioner Sam Bushman (No), Eastern District Commissioner Jeff Hoelscher (No), Western District Commissioner Kris Scheperle (No), Assessor Christopher Estes (Yes), Auditor Kristen Berhorst (No), Collector Larry Vincent (No), County Clerk Steve Korskmeier (Yes), Prosecuting Attorney Locke Thompson (Yes), Public Administrator Joe Kuensting (Yes), Recorder of Deeds Judy Ridgeway (No), Sheriff John Wheeler (Absent), Treasurer Eric Peters (Yes).

**DISCUSSION:**

Discussion included the Salary Commission or whomever is on this Commission is interested in contacting the County's lobbyist to work with the legislatures on this issue to equalize Elected Officials Salaries. It was agreed upon to move forward with a meeting before December 15, 2018 with County lobbyist and members of the Salary Commission to discuss equal salary for Elected Officials. Prosecuting Attorney Locke Thompson will look into when salary increases would take effect with Elected Officials, with an example of the Commissioners pay (Presiding Commissioner makes \$2,000.00 more than Associate Commissioners, but they cannot receive pay increase while in their current term). Commissioner Scheperle said he would contact the County lobbyist to meet with the Salary Commission. Chairman Peters suggested Scheperle to contact Travis Elliott, Counsel for MAC, who may be an asset in discussions about the salaries.

**MOTION:**

Assessor Estes made a motion to move forward to have a Salary Commission/Committee meeting prior to December 15, 2019 with the County lobbyist and others who can attend to discuss Elected Officials salary to be equalized. Chairman Peters seconded the motion. The motion passed by a roll call vote of: Presiding Commissioner Sam Bushman (Yes), Eastern District Commissioner Jeff Hoelscher (Yes), Western District Commissioner Kris Scheperle (Yes), Assessor Christopher Estes (Yes), Auditor Kristen Berhorst (Yes), Collector Larry Vincent (Yes), County Clerk Steve Korskmeier (Yes), Prosecuting Attorney Locke Thompson (Yes), Public Administrator Joe Kuensting (Yes), Recorder of Deeds Judy Ridgeway (Yes), Sheriff John Wheeler (Absent), Treasurer Eric Peters (Yes).

**MOTION:**

Assessor Estes made a motion to adjourn the Salary Commission Meeting. Auditor Berhorst seconded the motion. The motion Passed by a roll call vote of: Presiding Commissioner Sam Bushman (Yes), Eastern District Commissioner Jeff Hoelscher (Yes), Western District Commissioner Kris Scheperle (Yes), Assessor Christopher Estes (Yes), Auditor Kristen Berhorst (Yes), Collector Larry Vincent (Yes), County Clerk Steve Korskmeier (Yes), Prosecuting Attorney Locke Thompson (Yes), Public Administrator Joe Kuensting (Yes), Recorder of Deeds Judy Ridgeway (Yes), Sheriff John Wheeler (Absent), Treasurer Eric Peters (Yes).

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Eric Peters, Salary Commission Chairman

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Steve Korskmeier, Cole County Clerk