



Legislative Coordinating Commission

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COMPENSATION COUNCIL Meeting Minutes Friday, March 6, 2009 Room 10, State Office Building Convener: Tom Swain

Present:

Tom Swain
Patricia Anderson
Perry Carlson
Darrell Carter
Kim Crockett
Michael Cummins
Deborah Erickson
Kathryn Green
Cory Hoepfner
John Stanoch
Senator Yvonne Prettner Solon
Senator Paul Koering
Representative Joe Atkins
Representative Mike Beard

Excused:

Senator Mee Moua
Representative Tom Rukavina

Convener Tom Swain called the Compensation Council meeting to order at 10:05 am. A quorum was present. Members and staff introduced themselves.

Mr. Swain opened up nominations for the position of council chair. John Stanoch nominated Tom Swain. Seconded. There being no other nominations, nominations were closed and Mr. Swain was elected chair.

Sally Kidd, Legislative Coordinating Commission, reviewed administrative matters regarding reimbursement forms for council members.

Tom Bottern, Senate Counsel & Research, reviewed the statutory duties of the council assigned by Minnesota Statutes 15A.082. Mr. Bottern also reviewed a memo summarizing the total compensation packages for constitutional officers, legislators, and judges. Mr. Bottern stood for questions.

Tom Hanson, Commissioner of Minnesota Management and Budget, testified before the Council. Commissioner Hanson stated that at this time they are not recommending a salary increase for

constitutional officers or agency heads.

Greg Hubinger, Director of the Legislative Coordinating Commission, reviewed a memo prepared by Peter Wattson, Senate Counsel & Research, on how the Legislature has responded to the past recommendations of the Compensation Council. Mr. Hubinger then reviewed a spreadsheet showing the salary history of elected officials.

Mark Shepard, House Research, explained how various public officials' salaries are affected by salaries within the jurisdiction of the Compensation Council. Mr. Shepard also reviewed a memo regarding the process of establishing agency head salaries.

Mr. Hubinger reviewed a spreadsheet showing the salary history of agency heads.

Lee Mehrkens, Director of Finance for Judicial Branch, testified before the Council. Mr. Mehrkens stated the judicial branch is requesting the council consider no salary increases for justices and judges at this time.

Sen. Koering moved that the Compensation Council recommend a zero percent increase for all constitutional officers, agency heads, judges and legislators. Discussion to the motion ensued.

Rep. Beard moved to table the Koering motion until the next meeting. The Motion Prevailed.

Mr. Swain requested members let staff know what information they would find useful for the next meeting. Discussion ensued. Information requested by members included: a comparison of salaries by state, a comparison of compensation paid in government service and the private sector to persons with similar qualifications, a breakdown of the four different bodies highlighting when recommendations for each would take effect if a recommendation is made, a description of total benefits received by each body and a calculation of salaries if they had been adjusted for inflation.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:47 am.

Tom Swain, Chair