

The special meeting of the Huntingdon County Commissioners was held on the above date and time in the Bailey Building Ballroom with the following being present: Commissioners O’Korn, Fluke and Thomas; Chief Clerk, Michelle Cerett; Solicitor, Pete McManamon; Sheriff, Bill Walters; Coroner, Paul Sharum; Register and Recorder, Jinny Cooper; and Prothonotary, Kay Coons.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Commissioner O’Korn followed by prayer led by Commissioner Fluke and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag led by Commissioner O’Korn.

The purpose of the meeting is to consider salary increases for 2016 through 2021 for Elected Officials.

Sheriff Walters asked that the salaries of all row offices be uniform across the Board. He also stated that he has documentation stating that the Sheriff is permitted to receive additional compensation for duties outside regular business hours. He has done this work and never been compensated for it. Michelle stated she received documentation from CCAP in June stating he was not permitted to receive additional compensation. Michelle also stated that the salaries of each row office were set by County code several years ago. The salaries were not set uniform across the Board and it is her understanding that per code, the same annual increase must be granted to each row office. Therefore, the salaries cannot be uniform across the Board.

Sheriff Walters stated that he feels he and Kay Coons were not granted an annual increase sometime in past years. Commissioner O’Korn stated we will look back through old records and if that is the case, it will be rectified. Sheriff Walters also stated that he is one of the lowest paid, class 6 County Sheriff’s in the State and feels his base salary should be increased.

Paul Sharum requested an increase to his base salary as well. He provided a presentation to the Board on several things he has done and accomplished since he became Coroner. Paul stated he does several things over and above his required duties. He also stated he is one of the lowest paid 6 Class Coroners in the State. Commissioner Thomas stated that he feels everyone’s job is very important but as Elected Officials the first priority is to the residents of the County. He also stated that every Elected Official knows the salary of the position prior to running for office. Commissioner O’Korn agreed with Commissioner Thomas but stated that an increase in base salaries cannot be considered this evening. Commissioner Fluke commented that additional compensation for education is not always possible. After further discussion, it was decided Michelle would obtain clarification on if and how a base salary for an elected Official can be increased. She will then provide that information to all Elected Officials.

It was moved by Commissioner O’Korn to increase salaries of Elected Officials by 2.5% for each of the years in question. Motion died for lack of a second.

It was moved by Commissioner Fluke not to grant an increase for Elected Officials for each of the years in question. Motion died for lack of a second.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas to increase the salaries of Elected Officials based on the CPI but not to exceed 2.5%. Motion died for lack of a second.

It was moved by Commissioner Fluke to increase the salaries of Elected Officials of \$1000.00 for each of the years in question. Motion died for lack of a second.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner O’Korn and carried (O’Korn, yes; Fluke, yes; Thomas, yes) to increase the salaries of Elected Officials for each of the years in question by 2.25%.

Commissioner O’Korn stated he feels it is commendable for Elected Officials to accept a lower salary increase percentage than most union employees receive. Commissioner Fluke stated that he is personally satisfied with his current salary. Commissioner Thomas congratulated all the Elected Officials for going above and beyond the call of duty. Jinny Cooper pointed out that some County Employees make more than Elected Officials. While she understands the difference between an employee and an Elected Official, she feels all Elected Officials deserve the 2.5%.

Michelle left the meeting to prepare the proper resolution.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Fluke and carried (Fluke, yes; Thomas, yes; O’Korn, yes) to adopt resolution 18-2014, granting the salary increases of 2.25% for years 2016 through 2019 for those elected in 2015 and 2.25% for years 2018 through 2021 for those Elected in 2017.

Commissioner O’Korn noted for the minutes that the previous increase of 2.5% for those Elected in 2013 will remain the same through 2017.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Thomas to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary