

AGENDA
SPECIAL MEETING SETTING SALARIES OF ELECTED OFFICIALS
PUBLIC MEETING ROOM, BLAIR COUNTY COURTHOUSE
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2018, 6:00 P.M.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
5. **DISCUSSION CONCERNING SALARIES OF ELECTED OFFICIALS FOR CALENDAR YEARS 2022, 2023, 2024 AND 2025**

SPECIAL MEETING: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2018, 6:00 P.M.

A special meeting was called to order as an advertised special public meeting for the purpose of "Intention to Fix Salaries of Elected Officials". The following elected officials were present:

Bruce Erb, Commissioner	August C. Stickel IV, Controller
Terry Tomassetti, Commissioner	Mary Ann Bennis, Register & Recorder
Ted Beam, Jr., Commissioner	Robin Patton, Prothonotary

Others present: Helen Schmitt, Chief Clerk, Asst. Solicitor Jeffrey Muriceak, President Judge Elizabeth Doyle, Sheriff Deputy David Kessler

Members of the Public: Jesse Ickes

News Media: Kay Stephens, Altoona Mirror

CALL TO ORDER:

Commissioner Erb called the meeting to order.

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION:

Commissioner Erb called for a moment of silent reflection.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

Commissioner Erb requested that those present please stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Commissioner Erb asked for public comments. No public comments made.

Commissioner Erb provided various options for increases such as a flat percentage of 2% for the entire four-year period, an increase according to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), and adding a ceiling and floor percentage to the CPI.

Controller Stickel expressed his concerns with following the Consumer Price Index, stating that it did not make fiscal sense, given the fluctuation over the past several years. He also commented that a 2% increase may be too high or it may not be enough for the years (2022-2025) covered by the increase. He felt that 2% is appropriate at this time given the county's current fiscal position.

Discussion followed concerning the salaries of other fifth class county elected officials.

MaryAnn Bennis commented on the inequity of the Prothonotary's salary.

Commissioner Tomassetti provided a brief historical summary of how this same inequity existed with the Sheriff's salary and his recollection of how the inequity was resolved when the salaries were set in 2010.

Robin Patton asked if it would be possible to change her current salary to bring it in line with the salary of the Register & Recorder. Commissioner Erb explained that the salary of the Prothonotary has been set through December 31, 2021 and it cannot be changed. He stated that the salary can be corrected in 2022 if there is support to do by Commissioners Tomassetti and Beam.

Commissioner Beam asked the elected officials present for their comments on proposed salary increases.

Controller Stickel stated that he feels his salary is fair, however, in the private sector he would be receiving a salary that is 50% higher. He realizes that his salary is higher than many county employees that an increase of 3% is not exorbitant, and an increase of 2% for calendar years 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 is acceptable.

Commissioner Beam agreed with Controller and stated “We live in Blair County and we need to keep that in mind. 2% is a fair increase.”

Deputy Kessling asked if Elected Officials would be part of the Salary Study. Commissioner responded to his question.

Register of Wills and Recorder of Deeds, Mary Ann Bennis, stated that the duties in her office have increased, revenue received in her office has increased, there are additional responsibilities that were not there when she first took office, it is a fulltime job and that a 2% increase for the four-year period is reasonable.

Prothonotary Robin Patton, stated that a 2% increase is fair and that she would not support anything higher than 3%.

President Judge Doyle commented on the effect of Elected Officials on the courts, and expressed her support for increasing the Prothonotary’s salary. Judge Doyle stated “Elected Officials should be applauded for their skill, and knowledge, and that the salaries need to incentivize people to run for office.”

Discussion concerning a 2% increase for all Elected Officials and a “catch-up” of the Prothonotary’s salary followed. The Board asked if there was any objections from any of the Elected Officials present to increasing the salary of the Prothonotary by 6.1206% in year 2022 in order to bring the salary up to the same amount as the Register & Recorder (\$74,689.61) in 2022. No objections were made.

Commissioner Erb called for a motion setting the percentage increase of the Prothonotary’s salary in 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 and for all other Elected Officials for this same time period.

Motion by Commissioner Beam, seconded by Commissioner Erb and unanimously approved to increase the Prothonotary salary by 6.1206% in calendar year 2022, by 2% in 2023, by 2% in 2024 and by 2% in 2025 and to increase all other elected official salaries by 2% for years 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 P.M.

Meeting Adjourned

Helen P. Schmitt, Chief Clerk

