**Minutes of the Daviess County Salary Commission**

**October 29, 2019**

The Daviess County Salary Commission met this 29th day of October, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. Pam Howard, Circuit Clerk, called the meeting to order. Present were the following Elected Officials:

County Clerk - Ronetta Burton Prosecuting Attorney – Annie Gibson

Collector/Treasurer – Pam McNeel Recorder – Jane McKinsey

Commissioner, Presiding – James Ruse Sheriff – Ben Becerra

Commissioner, 1st District – David Cox

Commissioner, 2nd District – Wayne Uthe Assessor, Public Admin & Coroner were absent

Pam Howard, Circuit Clerk, asked for nominations for Chairman of the Commission. David Cox nominated Jim Ruse for Chairman, Ronetta Burton seconded. Pam Howard asked for other nominations, there were none. 8-Aye, 0-No. Motion passed.

Jim Ruse began the meeting by asking Ronetta Burton, Chief Financial Officer, to give the current financial condition of the county report. Ronetta stated the 2019 budget needed cuts of almost $100,000 to balance in January 2019, and known shortages for 2019 include $20,000 in lost reimbursements from the state to the Recorder’s office. Known shortages for 2020 include $55,000 in lost reimbursements from the state to the Recorder’s office, $17, 000 increase in healthcare costs, and the $100,000 in requests denied in 2019 that will probably be requested again for 2020.

Ronetta also stated Assessed Valuations were up again in 2019 by almost $3,000,000, and sales tax and delinquent property taxes were currently at expected levels. Current tax collections on the new valuation will not begin until Nov 1, 2019. Ronetta advised the Salary Commission that rollbacks in the tax levy that were taken in 2007 ($0.19) and 2008 ($0.24) will need to be addressed in 2020.

Jim Ruse added that a levy increase to capture part or all of the rollback will probably be necessary for the County to meet its obligations in 2020 and going forward.

Ronetta Burton advised that an error in computing the 2019 salaries had been discovered that had to do with a misunderstanding between a previous clerk and the county attorney. The additional $8,758.00 will be paid out to the officials affected before the end of 2019. This increase is due to an increase in the assessed valuation in 2017 for the county that pushed us into a higher base salary range per MO statutes for officials elected in 2018.

Discussion was held regarding increases to salaries, if any, for the officials elected in 2020. Annie Gibson advised the Commission that a MO statute currently allows a onetime increase in all salaries of $2000, effective immediately. This statute allows an increase to the Sheriff salary of $6,000. Discussion was also held regarding Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) and how they had been addressed in the past. The last COLA given by the County Commissioners was in 2016.

Annie Gibson, Prosecuting Attorney, made a motion to have salaries remain at 115% of base for officials elected in the next term (2020), plus the 2% COLA approved by the County Commissioners in 2016, plus COLAs equal to the percentage approved for all county employees in 2020 and 2021, if any, and to forego any one time additional salary available at this time; and to have the Public Administrator salary remain at the current level, plus COLAs equal to the percentage approved for all county employees in 2020 and 2021, if any, Ben Becerra seconded.

Roll call vote:

Aye - County Clerk - Ronetta Burton Aye - Prosecuting Attorney – Annie Gibson

Aye - Collector/Treasurer – Pam McNeel Aye - Recorder – Jane McKinsey

Aye - Commissioner, Presiding – James Ruse Aye - Sheriff – Ben Becerra

Aye - Commissioner, 1st District – David Cox Aye - Commissioner, 2nd District – Wayne Uthe

There were no NO votes.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

Approved:

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Chairman

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2019-1

Clerk of the County Commission

Certification of the 2019 Salary Commission

On this 29th day of October, 2019, the Salary Commission for Daviess County hereby certifies that it has met pursuant to law to establish compensation for county officers to be paid to such officers during the next term of office (elected in 2020) for the officers affected. The Salary Commission reports that there shall be no increase in compensation so that county officer’s salaries will remain set at 115% percent of the maximum allowable compensation by statute, including the 2% COLA approved by Commissioners in 2016, plus an allowable cost-of-living allowance (COLA) equal to the same percentage awarded to county employees, if any, computed on the total salary; except for the Public Administrator. The Salary Commission also wishes to forgo any additional salary available to them by statute for all elected officials positions.

The Public Administrator’s salary pursuant to RSMo 473.742, for the next term (elected in 2020), shall remain at the current rate plus the 2% COLA approved by Commissioners in 2016, plus an allowable cost-of-living allowance (COLA) equal to the same percentage awarded to county employees, if any, computed on the total salary.

Approved:

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Chairman

Attest:

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Clerk of the County Commission