

To: Mayor Strazdas and the Portage City Council

Date: 06-11-07

From: Local Officers Compensation Commission

Subject: Elected Official Compensation Review

Committee Officers

Gary Brown, Chairperson. Betty Lee Ongley, Secretary.

Committee Members

Fred Bindemann, Frances H. Denny, James Graham, Michael Stoddard, Norm Terry.

Background

The Local Officers Compensation Commission is appointed by the Mayor as established by City Ordinance to “determine the salaries of all local elected officials.”

Salary History

\$20 per meeting as of – and prior to – April, 1975 for the Councilmembers and the Mayor.

\$25 per meeting as of April 25, 1975 for the Councilmembers and the Mayor.

\$1300 per year for Councilmembers and \$2300 per year for the Mayor as of August 2, 1977.

\$4000 per year for Councilmembers and \$6000 per year for the Mayor as of March, 1991.

The Local Officers Compensation Commission was not called during Mayor Brown and Mayor Graham’s terms of office.

Committee Discussion

The committee felt there exists a need to fairly compensate the Mayor and the City Councilmembers.

The committee reviewed the compensation received by other elected officials in communities with similar population to Portage's and found that the elected officials in Portage receive compensation that ranks below the average compensation of comparably sized communities.

The committee also discussed topics such as cost of living increases and the increased responsibilities and expectations of our elected officials.

Committee recommendation

After discussion and deliberation on the subject that the Local Officers Compensation Commission is charged with, it is the recommendation of the committee that the Mayor's compensation be increased to \$7500 annually and the City Councilmember's salary be increased to \$5000 annually. With this increase, the compensation for our elected officials will be comparable to that of like size communities in Michigan.