

To: Mayor Strazdas and the Portage City Council
From: Local Officers Compensation Commission
Subject: Elected Official Compensation Review

Date: August 7, 2017

Commission Officers:

Betty Ongley, Chairperson.

Commission Members:

Larry DeShazor, James Graham, Betty Ongley, Michael Stoddard, Paul Summers, Norm Terry. There is one vacancy.

Background

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

Compensation History

Following is a brief history of the compensation received by the Portage City Council and Mayor:

- \$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.
- \$5000 per year for Councilmembers and \$7500 per year for the Mayor as of June, 2007.
- In June of 2009, 2011, 2013 and August of 2015, it was determined that there should be no change to the compensation of \$5000 per year for Councilmembers and \$7500 per year for the Mayor.

Commission Discussion

The commission believes there exists a need to fairly compensate the Mayor and the City Councilmembers. The LOCC discussed recent improvements in economic and budgetary conditions, recent pay increases provided to city staff, how the compensation of Portage elected officials compares to comparable cities and the Consumer Price Index. Members of the LOCC emphasized the fact that membership on the City Council is public service in its truest form and that it has been a decade since there was an increase in compensation.

Commission Determination

After discussion and deliberation on the subject for which the LOCC is charged, it is the determination of the commission that the compensation of City Councilmembers and the Mayor be increased by \$1,000 annually to totals of \$6,000/year and \$8,500/year, respectively.