

To: Mayor Strazdas and the Portage City Council

Date: June 2, 2009

From: Local Officers Compensation Commission

Subject: Elected Official Compensation Review

Committee Officers:

Gary Brown, Chairperson. Betty Lee Ongley, Secretary.

Committee Members:

Frances H. Denny, James Graham, Joshua Hill, 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

Following is a brief history of the salary 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.

Committee Discussion

The committee believes there exists a need to fairly compensate the Mayor and the City Councilmembers. The Local Officers Compensation Commission (LOCC) discussed the current economic climate and trends and the fact that membership on the City Council is public service in its truest form. The LOCC deliberated whether or not a pay decrease or increase was in order. A majority of the LOCC determined that the best course of action was to maintain salaries at current levels.

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 there be no change to the salaries of members of the City Council and the Mayor.