

(Neb.)-Dawes County Commissioners To Consider Change To Officials Benefits

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(Chadron)-Dawes County Elected Officials may be seeing a bit of a change in benefits if the Commissioners approve a proposal which was presented at their Wednesday morning meeting. Several of the elected officials met with the Board to discuss the proposed policy and reason for its submission.

Sheriff Karl Dailey gave a bit of background and comparison for the Board before the formal presentation, stating that the County officials and those who perform equivalent jobs with the City are commensurate in their duties, but not in pay. According to Dailey, City officials receive significantly more in salary than their County equivalents. Dailey stated all of the County officials do a great job, and the County is getting a heck of a bang for its buck. He asked the Board to keep that in mind as the proposal was presented.

Assessor Lindy Coleman pointed out that not only do County officials make less than those employed with the City, but they also make less than what is recommended by the Nebraska Association of County Officials. Clerk Cheryl Feist informed the Board that there are many weekends she will come in to make sure things are getting done that need to be completed, and she said it is not at all unusual to see other County officials doing the same.

The proposal the Board will consider consists of an increase in what the County would cover when it comes to healthcare coverage for the officials, raising it to 90% as opposed to 75%, which is what other County employees currently receive. It was also proposed to not have a salary increase for 2014, but for 2015, 2016 and 2017 bump the salary up by 3% each year. Feist said other Counties pay the full benefits of elected officials.

Deputy County Attorney Adam Edmund said the matter with healthcare coverage could become an issue, as with the current state of insurance in the Nation, insurance increases are not very predictable at this time. He will also be looking into whether the policy would be implemented in January if approved because of policy regarding benefits for County officials when they accept the terms of their position. The Board will take the proposal into consideration, and will again discuss the matter at their next scheduled meeting, which is December 4.

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