

March 2017 - From the Chairman:

Some questions have come up concerning the recommendation from the Fayette County Compensation Board to the Supervisors for raises to the Fayette County Elected Officials for Fiscal Year 2017 – 2018 and the Supervisors approving that recommendation.

The Compensation Board in Fayette County is very good at what they do. Before they make a recommendation to the Supervisors they consider what Iowa Code 331.905 and 331.907 states and compares other Counties Elected Officials salaries throughout the State of Iowa. I encourage you to read this code and understand all that is required of the Compensation Board before they vote to make the recommendation to the Supervisors.

Salaries of all Elected Officials are always going to be a topic of discussion because the money for their salaries does come from the taxpayers. However, there are many workers for the County that receive a wage from the taxpayers, from the County Assessor Office to the Weed Commissioner Office. (Not listed in order of importance just alphabetical.) The deputy clerk in the Elected Officials offices can receive up to 85% of the Elected Officials salary and the clerks in the Elected Officials office can receive up to 80% of the Elected Officials salary so a salary recommendation affects more than just the eight County Elected Officials.

For Fiscal Year 2011 -12 all Elected Officials salaries were held to a 0% raise, this decision was made by the Supervisors. In Fiscal Year 2012-13 and FY 2013 -14 there was a 75% reduction by the Supervisors of the Compensation Board's recommendation also for FY 2013 -14 the Supervisors received a 0% increase in their salary at the recommendation of the Compensation Board. (The Compensation Board can separate out the Supervisors from the other Elected Officials in making a recommendation for a salary increase or freeze). In FY 2014-15 the Elected Officials received 100% of the recommendation from the Compensation Board (Attorney, Auditor, Recorder, Treasurer and Supervisors at 3% and Sheriff at 15%) in FY 2015-16 there was an increase of 1.7% plus a rank adjustment ranging from \$750 to \$2000, in FY 2016-17 an increase of 1% with a rank adjustment ranging from \$1500 to \$2000 ( Supervisors received no rank adjustment for FY 2016 -17) and Fiscal Year 2017-18 an increase of .3% with a rank adjustment ranging from \$2000 to \$3000. For FY 2017-18 the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) was recommended at 1% however the Supervisor cut that back to .3% as that is what the COLA is for those on Social Security.

\*As I was writing this article a bill (legislation) was introduced, adopted and passed out of Committee. This is what the bill states: HSB 11 – The bill would abolish the County Compensation Board and transfer the duty of setting County Elected Officials compensation to the Board of Supervisors. An amendment was offered that would retain the Compensation Board but change the membership to five township trustees chosen from among all township trustees in the county by themselves. A different amendment was proposed that would retain the Compensation Board but the members would be chosen by each township selecting a trustee and each city choosing a councilperson and then choosing five members from that group to serve on the Compensation Board. The amendment was adopted and the bill passed out of Committee as amended.

As it is now the County Attorney, Auditor, Recorder, Treasurer and Sheriff each chose a person from the County to represent them on the Compensation Board and the Supervisors chose two people to represent them. As you see this would all change if this bill becomes law.

The Supervisors work more than just the Monday business meeting. On the Fayette County website under the Supervisors tab is a list of all the boards/ commissions we are assigned to. Most all of the Boards/ Commissions meet monthly and a Supervisor need to be there whether it is a meeting held in Fayette County or as far away as Emmet County. We also attend the Farm Bureau Legislative Forums so the public can address concerns with us, Six County meetings held with other Supervisors and Engineers to discuss issues within our respective Counties, receive calls at home for County related issues and receive/answer emails during the day. We also have one Supervisor in the office on Thursday, unless there is a Six County meeting.

The question posed in an open forum letter in the Oelwein Daily Register concerning the money spent on Ziegler Inc.: Ziegler deals in CAT ag and construction equipment, not salt and sand. When there's a bill paid to Ziegler it is, most likely, for the equipment for Secondary Roads. We also use Ziegler to rebuild motors/transmissions for the equipment, as there is limited space in the current secondary roads shop and having a motor torn apart takes up an extra stall. (The Maintenance crew can do the work however as I stated our space is limited). One more reason we would like a new shop.

\*This information was taken from the Iowa State Associations of Counties update for 3/3/17.

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