

WOODBURY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA ITEM(S) REQUEST FORM

Date: 2/9/2022

Weekly Agenda Date: 2/22/2022

ELECTED OFFICIAL / DEPARTMENT HEAD / CITIZEN: Supervisor Jeremy Taylor

WORDING FOR AGENDA ITEM:

Information for the Public on How Elected Officials' Pay is Set

ACTION REQUIRED:

Approve Ordinance

Approve Resolution

Approve Motion

Public Hearing

Other: Informational

Attachments

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Two meetings ago I made some comments regarding elected official pay, something discussed at the Farm Bureau Meeting. Constituents have since asked me questions as relates to the percentage increases as relates to our discussions of our other 400 employees:

Union Employees:	2.25-2.75% (receiving \$1,000 one-time retention payment) equiv.	4%	
Wage Plan/Department Heads:		4%	
Elected Officials:	Sheriff \$118,382	31.15%	\$155,495
Recommendations of Comp Board	Attorney \$140,350	13%	\$158,596
	Auditor \$96,448	9%	\$105,129
	Treasurer \$96,448	9%	\$105,129
	*Supervisors \$37,042	0%	\$37,042

*Supervisor pay was recommended at 22% to go to \$45,191 but was set to 0% to remain at \$37,042

BACKGROUND:

- 1) The Sheriff, Auditor, Treasurer, County Attorney, and Board of Supervisors have their salaries set by a Compensation Board as laid out in Iowa Code 331.907.
- 2) Each elected official has representation by which they can request and advocate their recommendation.
- 3) The requests this year have ranged from 9% (Auditor/Recorder), 13% (County Attorney), 22% (BOS), and 31.15% (Sheriff). County compensation boards take into account comparables, legislation, and (sometimes) the request of the elected official/s.
- 4) These percentages increases are higher by far than both groups (union 2.25 - 2.75% union and 4% wage plan) and the highest requests that I have seen since any of us have been on the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors is allowed by Code to reduce our percentage separately. (The majority of the Board chose to reduce our percentage from 22% to 0% for FY 23.)
- 5) Elected officials oftentimes advocate that they are taking the increase on behalf of "percentage deputies," or those whose salaries are likewise tied to the elected officials pay.
- 6) All elected officials salaries are tied together, with the exception this year the Board of Supervisors, which means that if we reduce by a percentage, we have to do so across-the-board, e.g. all percentages have to be reduced equally.
- 7) A new "Back the Blue Law" SF 342 mandates that in setting the Sheriff's salary (and his percentage deputies) the Comp Board shall consider like-populated city police chiefs, thus the higher percentage recommendation. While the Comp Board recommends, the BOS sets the final salary and cannot increase anyone separately by any mechanism.
- 8) Iowa Code does not prohibit an elected official from "refusing to take a raise" by donating it to county initiatives or to not-for-profit charities or doing so to a level that puts him or her at the same increase as wage plan/union employees.
- 9) Any member of the public can weigh in on these salaries during the public hearing which is set for March 29.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

IF THERE IS A CONTRACT INVOLVED IN THE AGENDA ITEM, HAS THE CONTRACT BEEN SUBMITTED AT LEAST ONE WEEK PRIOR AND ANSWERED WITH A REVIEW BY THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE?

Yes No

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive the information.

ACTION REQUIRED / PROPOSED MOTION:

Receive the information.