

November 18, 2009

Osceola County Attorney Bob Hansen
Hand Delivered
Osceola County Courthouse
Sibley, IA

Dear Mr. Hansen,

Over the past few years of my service on the Osceola County Compensation Board, I have heard indirect statements from fellow members that if we don't provide Sheriff Weber a certain percentage increase that due to the union contract the county could be sued. This was never made clear as to why this was true.

Now I read in the letter to us board members from Barb Echter, dated November 4, 2009, that "the Sheriff will need an increase due to the union contract."

I would like to make a request of your office. As county attorney could you provide the Osceola County Compensation Board a letter reviewing the governing provisions in this union contract, the Iowa state code and the current wage rates, which together are causing some to state that the Sheriff needs to have a pay raise due to the union contract.

It is my understanding that neither the Sheriff nor his Chief Deputy are covered under this union contract. Personally, before I cast any votes on this I'd like a better understanding of the legal issues that some believe are driving this statement.

If possible, please feel free to e-mail the response back to myself and to Barb Echter before the meeting. I'd encourage her to try to e-mail and/or postal mail your findings to all board members prior to the meeting.

I hope you can accommodate this request. I would like to have provided this to you earlier, but I've been so busy with this late harvest. Thank you for your consideration Mr. Hansen.

Sincerely,

George Braaksma
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Cc: Dr. Greg Kosters, Barb Echter