



County Boards Must Hold a Meeting and Select a Chairperson in January and Set County Officials' Salaries by January 15, 2018

During the month of January, many individuals set resolutions and this is when new programs or structures are implemented within a workplace, including counties. Generally, county boards refer to one of their January meetings as a reorganizational meeting. With the exception of selecting a county board chair (see discussion below), statutes are silent on other matters that county boards must consider and items which are established each year differ from county to county. A great deal of which is based on a county's historical precedent and what has worked for them in the past.

Holding a January Meeting of the Board and Electing a Chair

The board of county commissioners at its regular meeting in January of each year shall elect a chairman of the board to serve for the ensuing year. Section 23-156. Such chairman shall sign all warrants on the treasurer for money to be paid out of the county treasury. *Id.* Similar provisions are applicable to supervisor formed county boards.

The board at its regular meeting of January each year shall organize by choosing one of its number as chairman, who shall preside at all meetings of the board during the year; and in case of his absence at any meeting, the members present shall choose one of their number as temporary chairman. Sections 23-272, 23-274. The chairman of the board of supervisors shall have power to administer an oath to any person concerning any matter submitted to the board, or connected with their powers and duties. Section 23-279.

Setting Salaries Prior to an Election Year

Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 23-1114, the salaries of all elected county officers must be fixed by the county board prior to January 15 of the year in which a general election will be held for the respective offices. The majority of elected officials' salaries have been set or need to be set for their term by January 15, 2018 because of the general election involving those offices.

Recognizing that 2018 is an election year providing for the election of a majority of county officials and that County Board members are required to set the salaries for the 2019--2022 term prior to January 15, 2018, the Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) once again renewed its continued effort to promote that fair and equitable salaries and benefits be provided to all elected and appointed county officials. A report of salary recommendations and supporting documentation was previously sent to your county board chair and county clerk in October 2017. If you do not already have a copy of the report and supplemental information and would like a copy, please contact Elaine Menzel at: elaine@nacone.org.