

The Traill County Commissioners met in special session on Tuesday, August 25, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. with the following members present: Commissioners Eblen, Elliott, Nesvig and Amb. Commissioner Young attended via Webex. The purpose of the special meeting was to discuss health insurance and additional repairs needed for the dome.

HEALTH INSURANCE:

Heather Hovey, Chief Deputy Auditor and Randy Johnson, Senior Vice-President with Hays Company discussed the proposal received from NDPHIT (North Dakota Public Health Insurance Trust) to offer health insurance to eligible Traill County employees.

The proposed health insurance plan is a self-funded health plan program which is administered by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Dakota. The proposed health insurance plan will have benefit coverage and deductibles matching what is currently offered by NDPERS (North Dakota Public Employee Retirement System). The premiums proposed by NDPHIT will freeze the current 2020 primum costs thru the 2021 calendar year. NDPERS is anticipating a premium increase between 10-23% for the 2021-2023 biennium. In 2019, Traill County received a 15% increase in premiums with NDPERS. Mr. Johnson indicated the premium increases with NDPHIT have averaged around 4% each year.

The current NDPERS policy allows for either a single policy or a family policy with the county paying \$733.68 per employee for a single policy and employees needing family health insurance having to pay an additional \$1,039.92 out of pocket. The new proposal offers the county “tiered” policies such as single, single plus dependents, single plus spouse and a family policy allowing the premiums to become more affordable to the families. Kim Jacobson, Director of Agassiz Valley Social Services explained that Traill County is ranked #52 out of 53 counties when it comes to paying for health insurance for employees. She has lost employees and has had difficulty hiring new employees because of the cost to employees for a family health insurance plan.

Employees were contacted and surveyed concerning switching insurance policies with a response of 50 employees-YES, 3 employees-NO, 3 employees-UNDECIDED and 12 employees did not respond. On motion of Amb, seconded by Nesvig and carried to switch health insurance companies and to offer the 4-tiers to all eligible employees, with an effective date of January 1, 2021.

DOMES REPAIRS:

Jenni Rubash, Head Custodian met with the board and informed them of an issue with the brick work at the top of the dome. It needs to be tuck pointed (cleaned and re-grouted). General Roofing and Construction gave a bid of \$29,456.00 to do the work. On motion of Young, seconded by Elliott and carried to go ahead with the repairs.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:56 a.m. to meet again in regular session on September 1, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.

Attest:

Glenda Haugen, Auditor

Thomas Eblen, Chairman