

Letter to the Editor
Ocheyedan Press-News
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Dear Editor,

We see county attorney Bob Hansen has decided to face the public himself with his recent letter to the editor. In reply, many Osceola County residents are coming up to us as well, commending us for our work. Yet, with the legal power Hansen holds over them as County Attorney, few will tell him face to face what they think of his pilfering taxpayer money. But even if no one commended us, we know what we are doing is right and would continue to raise the questions about county spending, even when being threatened by Hansen's attorney friend.

He says he is only in O'Brien County fifteen to eighteen hours each month. Yet he promised the O'Brien County Supervisors eighty hours a month of professional time. So are we to believe he can accomplish his duties there, while only spending 19% of his weekly schedule in their county? He says he does it by putting in "long days, week-ends and some holidays" in Sibley. Yet he also said he is getting commendations "while shopping, while walking down the street, at school functions, at church, at the wellness center." Whew! If Hansen is giving 60 hours a week of professional time to Osceola and O'Brien counties and has time to shop, go to church, to the wellness center, and school functions he must live a most exhausting life - one lawyers are generally not known for. We wonder how many county employees working in the courthouse - and who wouldn't fear for their job - could confirm his reported extra hours.

He says he didn't accept his wage increase for 2007-08. He was never offered a raise for the coming year. The OCTA has never questioned Hansen's work ethic while on the job. We believe him to be a hard worker. It is his lack of work to do in our small county in light of his large pay that we find offensive.

The board of the OCTA stands fully behind the survey on the use of taxpayer time by the eleven county attorneys which we commissioned. They were reviewed and approved, as are all of our public statements and website material, before releasing any of it to the public. Mr. Hansen is reduced to slinging mud against our consultant because taxpayers are starting to realize OCTA's survey results are exposing his pilfering.

He can try to justify his wages, but the average salary for every county attorney in Iowa (FY 2007), in the nineteen other counties under 10,000 in population size (like us), is \$44,801. At \$66,533 Hansen is making **49% more** than his peers. This does not include his O'Brien county wages of nearly \$40,000. The two combined, make him the fourth highest paid county attorney in Iowa.

His delinquent fine collection rate is a smoke screen as well. The rate can be skewed by one single large fine, left uncollected while the guilty party sits in jail. Collecting fines goes with the job, full-time or part-time.

His economic development argument is classic failed Keynesian economic theory, most often bantered around by government bureaucrats to justify more taxes. If his argument is right then the true path for economic success in Osceola County is to simply convince the O'Brien county supervisors to double, triple, quadruple his paycheck and watch Bob Hansen become the engine of vast wealth creation here in Osceola County!

At nearly \$110,000 next year (between the two counties), Bob Hansen is overpaid and under worked, at our expense. The Osceola County Supervisors need to reclassify his job as Part-time and need to reduce his salary accordingly. Perhaps the Supervisors are recipients of the same threats and intimidation as the OCTA. They need to hear from you on this issue. Call them and ask them to do their job now.

Sincerely,

Osceola County Taxpayers Association
Kevin Wolfswinkel, President