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(Neb.)-New Veteran's Service Officer, Search To Begin For Weed/Zoning/Floodplain Superintendent  [Listen](#)

By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 05/02/2012 02:56 PM

(DAWES COUNTY)-Charles "Mike" Kohler of the Chadron area has been selected as Dawes County's new Veteran's Service Officer. Veteran's Service Board chair Alan Connell brought the recommendation to the Dawes County commissioners Wednesday morning. Kohler has already begun meeting with Sheridan County's VSO Gary Sones to gain a better feel for his responsibilities in his new position.

Also at the meeting, the commissioners discussed the resignation of Weed, Zoning, and Floodplain superintendent Becky Paulsen. Paulsen, who had been working as superintendent for approximately three years, was attempting to navigate what some called "a severely under-funded budget" before making the decision to relocate to Lincoln closer to family. Commissioner Jake Stewart said Paulsen's absence will definitely be felt. He says, "It's going to slow down a little bit, you bet, because there's going to be one person until we get a superintendent hired."

Paulsen leaves one other full-time employee in the weed department, Pat Deever, who two of the three commissioners voted in as interim weed superintendent while county clerk Cheryl Feist advertises for the permanent position. Applications are available at the clerk's office in the courthouse and are due back by June 1st.

Until then, Commissioner Stewart said Deever will work solo in the weed department, while the zoning and floodplain departments have been transferred to the county's assessor's office temporarily. For those in need of assistance, Stewart says, "The weed, the building, the numbers are still the same. Pat should have Becky's cell phone, so any of those numbers should be the same, and he can direct them if he needs any help. Nothing's been separated now. All we're doing now is putting someone so they can run with weeds so we don't fall behind on that. And the rest of that, we're just setting it aside, because we don't have anybody that can be put in charge of that. That's why we're talking with people about maybe in the future separating them."

For zoning permits and questions, Stewart recommends people contact the assessor's office. He says the zoning board will meet on May 17th, and he should have a better understanding of what interim arrangements will be at that time. In other business, the commissioners opened and accepted several bids on bottom dump trailers and decided to accept the recommendation by engineer David Coe to contract with Karr Tuck Point, LLC for the renovations needed to portions of the exterior of the courthouse. The work will cost \$49,844 and will be completed in late summer or early fall of this year. The commissioners also received a report from Jada Thompson with auditing firm Contryman Associates. Thompson said the county had a few glitches in the report, specifically with the county treasurer's office, that have been resolved to date. Thompson said that treasurer Barbara Sebesta is "new to the office, so that is to be expected," but that "it is important that she takes the initiative to seek out training that will help her fulfill her obligations to the taxpayers of Dawes County."

(Questions? Comments? E-mail roxie@chadrad.com.)

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