

# Commissioners give themselves \$666 raise

by **RACHEL KIELTY**  
*Associate Editor*

In an effort to wrap up end-of-the-year business, the Jackson County Board of Commissioners got down to the business of approving raises for county employees at their Thursday, Dec. 27, meeting.

The board approved an increase in commissioners' salaries from \$13,433.75 for 2001 to \$14,100 in 2002. An increase from \$13,933.75 to \$14,600 was approved for the position of board chairman. According to County Coordinator Jan Fransen, a survey of surrounding counties was conducted to gauge what commissioners around southwestern Minnesota are being paid. Fransen reported that Jackson County falls right into the middle with neighboring counties such as Cottonwood and Martin counties paying their commissioners annual salaries of \$13,000 and \$16,090, respectively.

The board also approved step increases and

a cost of living increase of two percent for non-union employees for 2002. Fransen received a total 4.5 percent increase in salary, which includes a one-step advance on the Compensation Plan matrix for her "satisfactory" performance rating and the receiving two percent cost of living increase.

In other business:

- The board approved setting the per diem rate at \$60, which is a \$10 increase from the former amount of \$50.

- The board voted to approve the application for Apartment Recycling Reimbursement from Jerry Rohloff in the amount of \$36.

- The board approved sponsorship of the Nelson Creek Trail Project.

- A joint powers agreement between the counties of Jackson, Cottonwood and Nobles for the Tri-County Children's Day Treatment program was approved.

- The board approved a revised joint powers agreement between 18 southwest Minnesota

counties to administer and manage state grant funding for the provision of mental health services to adult SPMI consumers.

- The board voted to approve the reappointment of Tim Keller as the Agriculture Inspector for a one-year term to expire Dec. 31, 2002.

- The board set the mileage reimbursement rate at the IRS mileage rate for 2002, which is currently .365 cents for all county employees for use of their personal vehicles for county business, effective Jan. 1, 2002.

- The board adopted the recommendation of the Building Project Committee to hire E & V Consultants and Construction Managers to perform Agency Construction Management Services for the Courthouse and Law Enforcement Center Renovation Project.

The first meeting of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners for 2002 will be held on Monday, Jan. 14, in the commissioners' chambers at 9 a.m.