

# Supervisors reject death certificate fee

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MANITOWOC — Survivors of deceased family members won't be hit with a \$25 death certificate fee after 21 supervisors voiced opposition to the proposal at Tuesday night's Manitowoc County Board meeting at the University of Wisconsin-Manitowoc.

"This is a fee we do not need to charge ... it is just another tax," said Supervisor Paul Tittl.



Tittl

The proposed ordinance creating the fee was brought to the board by its Public Safety Committee. The ordinance noted some of Wisconsin's 72 counties charge as much as \$125 for a death certificate and that the statewide average is \$30.

The justification for the ordinance included a statement that the fee "does not exceed an amount reasonably related to the actual and necessary cost of providing the medical certification."

"I'm not sure why we have a coroner ... hospitals can sign a death certificate," said Supervisor Paul Hansen.

"Why do we need a coroner to sign off and say, 'Yeah, he is really dead,'" said Hansen, who added he recognizes the need for a coroner to perform occasional investigations into cause of death.

Board Chairman Jim Brey was among the no votes. He said that while he respects Coroner Curtis Green's expertise, he was concerned the approximate annual revenue of about \$5,000 might "end up as a

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raise" for the officeholder who has expressed concerns about his compensation level.