

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors  
Monday, January 15, 2018

The Muscatine County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 9:00 A.M. with Howard, Mather, Sauer, Sorensen and Bonebrake present. Chairperson Sauer presiding.

On a motion by Howard, second by Sorensen, the agenda was approved as presented. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Mather, claims dated January 15, 2018 were approved in the amount of \$347,855.29. Ayes: All.

The Board reviewed variances granted by the Muscatine County Board of Adjustment on Friday, January 5, 2018. Case #18-01-01 is an application filed by Richard Holmes, Record Owner. This property is located in Moscow Township, in the NE ¼ of Sec. 28-T78N-R2W, 2454 140<sup>th</sup> Street, Moscow, containing approximately 4.22 acres and is zoned A-1 Agricultural District. This request, if approved, would allow the Zoning Administrator to issue a Variance in order to continue to operate semi trucks from their home located at 2454 140<sup>th</sup> Street in Moscow. Sorensen stated he felt the case should be remanded back to the Board of Adjustment because the property is not zoned for a commercial trucking business. Howard stated the County has to be careful because we have these same situations all over the County that are being allowed and this one has been allowed for 10 years. Sorensen stated the County just made another business move because the property was not zoned for its trucking business. Howard stated he feels the County needs to deal with the overall problem and rewrite the ordinance. Mather stated he agrees the County needs to deal with the problem going forward. Board consensus was to direct Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas to put together information with options for addressing the situation in the future. Bonebrake suggested asking the Board of Adjustment to limit the business to two trucks. On a motion by Howard, second by Sorensen, the Board remanded the case back to the Board of Adjustment for further review. Ayes: All. Case #18-01-02 is an application filed by James M. or Edith M. Groulx, Record Owners, and Andrew D or Megan D. Schoepf, Applicant and Proposed Buyers. This property is located in Bloomington Township, Mark Twain Meadows, Lot 4, 2697 Calaveras Lane, Muscatine, containing approximately 1.95 acres and is zoned R-2 Residential District. This request, if approved, would allow the Zoning Administrator to issue a Variance in order to allow more than one kitchen facility in this single family dwelling. On a motion by Mather, second by Howard, the Board accepted the variance. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Bonebrake, a public hearing was set for Monday, February 5, 2018 at 9:00 A.M. on proposed amendments to the Muscatine County Zoning Ordinance. Ayes: All.

Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas and Supervisor Sorensen attended a meeting with representatives of the Department of Natural Resources on proposed updates to the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for Muscatine County and incorporated areas. Furnas presented the proposed maps to the Board of Supervisors stating they are part of a statewide project to cleanup some areas. Furnas stated this particular update is around the area of Nichols and involves a drainage ditch south of Nichols.

Information Services Director Bill Riley updated the Board on December help desk tickets and the status of the Tyler upgrade to Incode 10. Riley stated he is still using tapes for backup for now as the company through which he was going to move backup to the cloud is not ready.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Bonebrake, the Board approved the Muscatine County Treasurer's Semi-Annual Report for the period of July 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017 for publication. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Bonebrake, minutes of the January 8, 2018 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

All Supervisors received a letter from an inmate regarding the inmate's complaint of excessive charges for the loss of County issued items.

Howard reported a complaint regarding a plugged culvert on Burlington Road.

Howard reported a letter from Beth Poci, Muscatine County Advance Care Planning Initiative Coordinator requesting a proclamation for Healthcare Decision Days.

Committee Reports:

Howard attended a Milestones Area Agency on Aging January 9<sup>th</sup>.

Sauer attended a Muscatine County Board of Health meeting January 10<sup>th</sup>.

Sorensen and Bonebrake attended a MAGIC meeting January 8<sup>th</sup>.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Mather, the Board approved an agreement with A&J Associates for mechanical and electrical consulting engineering services for the Courtroom Renovation project at an estimated cost of 7% of the cost of construction. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Bonebrake, second by Sorensen, Resolution #01-15-18-01 Appointing Matthew Bonebrake and Jeff Sorensen as Muscatine County Representatives to the Muscatine County Joint Communications Commission. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

The Board reviewed the health/dental fund balance as of December 31, 2017.

County Attorney Alan Ostergren reviewed the FY18/19 budget request for the Attorney's Office stating the fine collections program is still going pretty well and probably on pace to increase about 8-10% in fine collections over last year. Ostergren stated the budget request includes changing the job description for the legal secretary to a paralegal in order for that employee to help attorneys get cases prepared for trial.

County Auditor Leslie Soule reviewed the FY18/19 budget request for the Auditor's Office stating election supplies was increased to allow for revision of many of the forms due to the Voter ID law changes and postage was increased to accommodate a larger absentee turnout for a General Election. Discussion was held regarding whether laptops should start being replaced. Soule stated she has a place holder to replace a couple of laptops should there be a problem, but since they do not get used very often and she has extras, she is prepared to wait longer before automatically replacing them. Budget Administrator Sherry Seright stated there is enough fund

balance in General Supplemental to purchase several laptops should a problem occur. Soule reminded the Board that there is nothing budgeted for election reimbursement since, unlike School and City Elections, the County bears the cost of the General Election.

County Treasurer Amy Zybarth reviewed the FY18/19 budget request for the Treasurer's Office stating the salary line includes promoting her most recent hire up to a Clerk II. Zybarth stated passport traffic has increased and is working well through the Treasurer's Office.

County Recorder Sarah Hearst reviewed the FY18/19 budget request for the Recorder's Office stating she has increased postage slightly for boat renewals.

The Board recessed at 10:51 A.M. and reconvened at 1:00 P.M.

Conservation Director Curt Weiss reviewed the FY18/19 budget request for the Conservation Department stating he increased his part time staff by about \$3,000 to help with cleaning cabins when they are completed. Weiss stated the budget request includes replacing two vehicles in FY18/19 at an estimated cost of \$45,000. Weiss stated he increased building maintenance and repair since the Discovery Center is aging and may be in need of repair. Weiss stated he is hoping to construct the cabins in summer or fall of 2018.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas reviewed the FY18/19 budget request for Zoning/Environmental Services stating he is not requesting any increase for non-personnel items.

Sheriff C. J. Ryan reviewed the FY18/19 budget request for the Sheriff's Office and Jail stating the budget includes two squad cars instead of the normal three vehicles that have been purchased in past years. Sheriff Ryan stated he is planning on buying Tahoes rather than sedans as maintenance experience has been better with Tahoes. Sheriff Ryan stated \$10,000 has been added to the budget for Special Response Team equipment as a placeholder and the City of Muscatine has indicated they will also budget \$10,000 for the Special Response Team. Bonebrake asked about body cameras. Sheriff Ryan stated they have just completed outfitting all of the vehicles with video cameras and he plans to purchase one body camera to try out before committing to body cameras for all deputies. Sheriff Ryan included a \$10,000 placeholder for possible upgrading of the surveillance system at the Jail.

Information Services Director Bill Riley reviewed the FY18/19 budget request for the Information Services Department stating \$15,000 for printer supplies has been added to the budget because all printers are now being maintained by the Information Services Department. Riley stated internet service is increasing substantially because of video conferencing at the Jail. Riley stated computer equipment will increase considerably because of the running of a fiber connection between the Jail and the Public Safety building. Riley stated he plans to replace the Board room projector and screen with a larger and brighter screen and projector. Riley stated he is also planning on adding a projector to the Auditor's Office conference room to assist with meetings and trainings held there by various departments.

The Board recessed at 2:30 P.M. and reconvened at 2:35 P.M.

Community Services Director Kathie Anderson-Noel reviewed the FY18/19 budget request for General Assistance stating trust services expenses for clients that fall under general assistance have increased slightly. Anderson-Noel stated many of these clients are nursing home residents for which they are supplying guardianship or payee services. Anderson-Noel stated overall the budget request shows no increase from the prior budget. Bonebrake asked about funeral services which is budgeted at \$32,500. Anderson-Noel stated the County pays \$1,000 for direct cremation for burial. Board consensus was to lower the budget request for funeral services to \$15,000. Board consensus also lowered the utilities (electric) budget request for General Assistance to \$15,000.

Veterans Affairs Director Jennifer Watkins-Schoenig reviewed the FY18/19 budget request for Veterans Affairs.

Anderson-Noel reviewed the FY18/19 budget request for Mental Health stating supported community living increased from \$150,123 to \$200,000 because of an increase in mental health cases for individuals over 65 living in the community who get daily services who have lost eligibility for medicaid and habilitation services. On a request from Howard, Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber stated that General Assistance has 2.07 Full Time Equivalents (FTE), Veterans Affairs has 1.45 FTEs, Mental Health Administration has 1.75 FTEs, Trust Services has 2.53 FTEs and Service Management has 2.20 FTEs. In response to a question from Sorensen, Anderson-Noel stated they only have one vehicle which is used 2 - 4 days a week by trust services outside of the county or for travel by any of Community Services employees to Des Moines for meetings or training.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 P.M.

ATTEST:

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Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

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Scott Sauer, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors