

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, January 16, 2017

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

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

On a motion by Sauer, second by Mather, claims dated January 16, 2017 were approved in the amount of \$381,505.89. Ayes: All.

Muscatine General Hospital Board Trustee John Beckey reported the Muscatine General Hospital Board intends to dissolve at its next meeting. Beckey stated the hospital was built in the 50's. Beckey stated from 1998 to 2009 Muscatine General Hospital was operated under a lease to Unity Health System. Beckey stated in 2009 Muscatine General was sold to Unity Health and is now operated out of Unity Point Health Systems. Beckey stated the Muscatine General Hospital Board was still in place to allow remaining county employees to reach their full IPERS and because the purchase agreement had a right to repurchase clause in case Unity Health System ever decided they did not want to operate a hospital in Muscatine County. Beckey stated the employees have all retired, so if the Muscatine General Hospital Board dissolves at the next meeting, then the right to repurchase would automatically transfer to the County. In response to a question from Howard, Beckey stated Unity had invested millions of dollars from 1998 forward, so when the transfer of ownership happened there was no money involved, but if Unity decided to sell it back to the County, there would be a cost to the County because of Unity's major investment in the facility. Sorensen stated there is no cost in the right to repurchase, but the County should be at the table in the future to look out for the community should Unity ever decide to pull out of Muscatine County. On a motion by Howard, second by Mather, the Board acknowledged the transfer of right to repurchase/right of refusal of Unity assets to the Board of Supervisors. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Mather, second by Sauer, the Board approved an ordinance rezoning approximately 11.5 acres in Fulton Township from C-2 Commercial District to R-1 Residential District on the second of three readings. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

Discussion was held with Planning and Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas regarding inspection and review of commercial septic tank cleaners. Furnas stated the Muscatine County Board of Health approved a contract with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources on January 11th to transfer inspection responsibility to the County. Furnas stated licensing paid to the IDNR would be fully reimbursed to the County creating approximately \$2,000 of revenue to the County. On a motion by Howard, second by Mather, the Board affirmed a contract between the Muscatine County Board of Health and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources delegating the inspection and review of commercial septic tank cleaners to Muscatine County. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Howard, the Board approved the following utility permits: Central Iowa Power Coop – rebuild an overhead line along 275th Street beginning near the

intersection of Emmert Avenue to Independence Avenue, then down Independence Avenue to 190th Street and continuing across Hwy 61. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Mather, second by Sauer, the Board set a public hearing for February 13, 2017 at 9:00 A.M. on the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for a Cold Storage Building located at 3610 Park Avenue West. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Mather, second by Sauer, the letting date was set for February 7, 2017 at 9:00 A.M. for a Cold Storage Building located at 3610 Park Avenue West. Ayes: All.

County Engineer Keith White updated the Board on Secondary Road Projects.

On a motion by Mather, second by Sauer, minutes of the January 9, 2017 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

All Supervisors received an email regarding trash dumped on 180th Street.

Committee Reports:

Mather attended an Eastern Iowa Mental Health Region meeting January 9th.

Mather attended a Seventh Judicial District meeting January 13th.

Sauer attended a MAGIC meeting January 9th.

Sauer attended a Board of Health meeting January 11th.

Howard attended a Fruitland City Council meeting January 10th.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas stated FEMA gave approval for the shooting range proposed by the Conservation Board, but the County would need to change the zoning ordinance to allow a shooting range as a special use. Board consensus was to begin the process of changing the zoning ordinance through the Zoning Commission.

County Engineer Keith White addressed the dumping issue on 180th Street stating posting a no dumping sign is usually not a good idea and actually results in more dumping. Board consensus was not to post a sign.

The Board reviewed the health/dental fund balance as of December 31, 2016.

The Board recessed at 9:37 A.M. and reconvened at 9:45 A.M.

GIS Manager Mark Warren reviewed the FY17/18 MAGIC budget stating salary and benefits have increased due to an increase in Muscatine Power and Water's benefits multiplier, but actual salary increases budgeted were 1.5% for the GIS Manager and 3% for the GIS Programmer/Systems Analyst. Warren stated \$18,000 was budgeted for two servers to be replaced.

Information Services Director Bill Riley reviewed the FY17/18 budget request for the Information Services Department stating \$20,000 is budgeted for replacing two servers, but he is investigating possibly moving the servers to the Administration Building, making them virtual servers, which would eliminate the maintenance going forward. Riley stated he could extend the warranty on the two servers one year to allow time to test the feasibility of moving the servers. Riley stated the budget request reflects an increase for storage because the County is moving to cloud storage which will eliminate the backup tapes and provide the security of off-site storage. Riley stated \$10,000 had been budgeted to replace the video recording system in the Board room because it is ten years old and still running on XP.

Tom Summitt, Chief Medical Examiner Investigator, stated the EMS Grant for FY17/18 is budgeted at \$5,000 but is now granted regionally rather than by County. Summitt stated Clinton County will be the administrator of the grants for our region. Summitt stated he is working hard to try to keep grant money in Muscatine County.

Summitt reviewed the FY17/18 budget request for Medical Examiner stating he is the only certified death investigator and his goal is to get everyone certified.

County Treasurer Amy Zybarth reviewed the FY17/18 budget request for the Treasurer's Office stating overall expenses have gone down slightly and revenue continues to increase. Zybarth stated the reduction on postage for the tax department is because tax statement postage is going to be outsourced.

County Recorder Sarah Hearst reviewed the FY17/18 budget request for the Recorder's Office stating the Treasurer handling passports has brought the Recorder's revenue back up as they are taking the photos and supplying the birth certificates. Hearst stated that a resident can now get a copy of a marriage or death record back to 1954 regardless of which County in Iowa it was issued. Hearst stated the goal is to be able to provide all vital records statewide.

The Board recessed at 11:21 A.M. and reconvened at 1:00 P.M.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas reviewed the FY17/18 budget request for Zoning/Environmental Services stating the two trucks purchased two years ago have a trade-in value of \$7,000 - \$7,500 each, but he has not budgeted to replace the trucks at this time. Sorensen stated it might not be a bad idea. Howard stated he would be interested in looking at the information. Furnas stated he is not budgeting for a new copier because he believes there is still some life left in the old copier. Furnas stated he has budgeted \$600 for a data plan for a tablet in order to access all of their records remotely when in the field. Furnas stated he has budgeted for a part-time staff person. Furnas stated they had difficulty keeping up with the inspections during the summer, but it does slowdown in the wintertime. Furnas stated that the current Office Administrator may retire in a few years and he would like to be able to train a new person for that position. Howard asked if this would be a seasonal position. Furnas stated he has budgeted for 20 hours per week for the entire year. Furnas stated it is important for him to stay near the office to concentrate on more long term planning.

County Auditor Leslie Soule reviewed the FY17/18 budget request for the Auditor's Office stating she has budgeted \$3,500 to replace batteries in the Precinct Atlas laptops that are 4 years old. Soule stated most of the differences in the budget are because of three smaller elections held in the next fiscal year versus the one large election that was held in the current fiscal year.

The Board recessed at 2:15 P.M. and reconvened at 2:24 P.M.

County Engineer Keith White reviewed the FY17/18 budget request for Secondary Roads stating \$2,075,000 covers projects that are partially locally funded. White stated there is actually another \$2,500,000 of Farm-to-Market funded projects. White stated the FY17/18 Construction Program includes four bridge replacements, two PCC overlays and various culver repairs. White stated he has budgeted \$799,000 for the replacement of one motor grader, one tandem truck with snow equipment, two light duty trucks and a medium hydraulic excavator plus the purchase of snow equipment for two tandem trucks purchased in FY16/17. White stated he has budgeted \$90,000 to pave a parking area in front of the new cold storage building.

The Board held ongoing discussion of the proposed FY17/18 Muscatine County Budget.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:21 P.M.

ATTEST:

Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

Jeff Sorensen, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors