

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors  
Monday, January 14, 2019

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

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

On a motion by Sauer, second by Sorensen, claims dated January 14, 2019 were approved in the amount of \$435,172.78. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Saucedo, the Board approved the following utility permit: Aureon – installation of armored fiber cable from Hwy 61 to the Muscatine City limits on Cedar Street. Ayes: All.

County Engineer Keith White updated the Board on secondary roads snow removal over the weekend.

Discussion was held regarding the use of slag on County roads. Mather stated the Board has received some information from Dr. Askew. Mather stated the Board is waiting on some tests being conducted by the State and he has been approached by Harsco who would like to do some testing of their own. On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board suspended the use of slag on County roads indefinitely pending results of testing. Ayes: All.

Discussion was held with Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas regarding the possible use of security cameras at the Sheriff's Office, Zoning Office and County Engineer's Office. Furnas stated one camera would be placed on the southeast corner of the County Engineer's building, one camera on the south edge of the parking lot, one interior camera for the Zoning Office counter area and two lobby cameras (one exterior, one interior) for the Sheriff's Office. Furnas stated the FSS Incorporated proposal does not include an additional \$2,500 for the switches and fiber converters through the Information Services Department. On a motion by Sorensen, second by Holliday, the Board accepted a proposal from FSS Incorporated in the amount of \$13,872.21 to install security cameras at the Sheriff's Office, Zoning Office and County Engineer's Office. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Sorensen, the Board approved the Muscatine County Auditor's Report of Fees Collected for the quarter ending December 31, 2018 in the amount of \$1,917.57. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Sorensen, minutes of the January 7, 2019 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

Saucedo reached out to staff from Harsco, SSAB and the DNR to follow up on slag issues.

Holiday reported a contact regarding dust on 250<sup>th</sup> Street. Holiday stated there has never

been slag on 250<sup>th</sup> Street.  
Mather and Saucedo reported contacts regarding the use of slag on County roads.

Committee Reports:

Sorensen and Holliday attended a Muscatine County Joint Communications Commission meeting January 8<sup>th</sup>.  
Mather attended a 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District meeting January 11<sup>th</sup>.  
Sorensen attended an E911 Commission meeting January 10<sup>th</sup>.  
Sorensen attended an Emergency Management Commission meeting January 10<sup>th</sup>.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Saucedo, the Board approved a request to increase the credit card limit for the Medical Examiner's Office from \$2,000 to \$5,000. Ayes: All.

The Board recessed at 9:17 A.M. and reconvened at 9:29 A.M.

GIS Manager Mark Yerington reviewed the FY19/20 MAGIC budget stating large projects planned for FY19/20 include parcel fabric migration and aerial flying at 3 inch imagery in the rural areas and 1½ inch imagery in the urban areas. Yerington stated the third employee reflected in the budget is Special Projects Coordinator Mark Warren as he transitions to retirement. Yerington stated he is starting an equipment fund to fund future equipment replacement.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas reviewed the FY19/20 budget request for Zoning/Environmental Services stating the increase in temp help is due to the outsourcing of commercial/industrial plan reviews. Furnas stated the increase in education and training is for the newest inspector to get his electrical certification. Furnas stated the \$10,250 under motor vehicle is to continue with the two year trade-in of the two trucks. Furnas stated he has budgeted to replace the 4-year old GPS unit used in environmental for hog confinements and well/septic inspections.

The Board recessed at 10:23 and reconvened at 10:32 A.M.

Community Services Director Kathie Anderson-Noel reviewed the FY19/20 budget request for General Assistance stating Muscatine Center for Social Action (MCSA) rent payments are increasing as shelter usage increases due to lack of affordable housing. In response to a question from Mather, Anderson-Noel stated MCSA shelter rent payments go directly to rent, but the MCSA subsidy and shelter services is a capacity grant which allows MCSA to keep their doors open if usage is down. Anderson-Noel stated \$52,395 has been spent on MCSA through November 2018. Saucedo requested numbers of people getting rent assistance, utility assistance, etc. Anderson-Noel stated she provides those numbers with her monthly reports to the Board and will send him reports for the last few months. Sauer asked why there is an increase in family usage of the shelter. Anderson-Noel stated she does not have information regarding the variables, but new people to the area are considered transients, not legal residents of Muscatine County, for which they are allowed only 7 days in the shelter. Anderson-Noel stated the local residents are probably there because of an income crisis. In response to a question from Saucedo, Anderson-Noel stated Community Services currently serves 233 individuals as protective payee for which

the County is receiving \$39 per month per individual from Social Security to manage their finances.

Veterans Affairs Director Jennifer Watkins-Schoenig reviewed the FY19/20 budget request for Veterans Affairs stating overall she is showing a decrease in the budget. In response to a question from Mather, Watkins-Schoenig stated she continues to reach out to veterans with programs such as those used in the past including an event held collaboratively with Louisa County at the armory and last year's traveling wall exhibit. In response to a question from Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber, Watkins-Schoenig stated the budgeted amount for temp help can be removed from the budget as it is no longer needed.

Anderson-Noel reviewed the FY19/20 budget request for Mental Health stating \$311,275 is the County's payment to the region for crisis management which is managed by Robert Young. Anderson-Noel stated under a new pilot program through Robert Young, the region can use a bed in Rock Island when beds are not available in our region. In response to a question from Schreiber, Anderson-Noel stated the large increase for mental health advocate is reflective of actual usage by Muscatine County of the Mental Health Advocate. Mather stated the proposal for mental health funding at the regional level is for all five counties to levy at \$30.78 for FY19/20. Sorensen stated he would support a Muscatine County levy at 70% of what Scott County levies. Budget Coordinator Sherry Seright stated the County's plan had been to draw approximately \$130,000 from the Region each year for the next five years, but since the Region wants a \$311,000 payment for crisis management, the County will be short \$441,000 from maintaining its 20% mental health fund balance carryover.

The Board recessed at 11:43 A.M. and reconvened at 1:00 P.M. with Holliday, Sauer, Mather and Sorensen present. Saucedo joined the meeting at 1:06 P.M.

Conservation Director Curt Weiss reviewed the FY19/20 budget request for the Conservation Department stating he increased the cell phone allowance for five employees from \$25 to \$35 per month, increased utilities slightly and increased machinery rental to cover a lift to assist with tree trimming. Weiss stated the Iowa Conservation Director's Association will be holding their annual conference in Muscatine this summer. Weiss stated building maintenance and repair increased because the Discovery Center is now 14 years old and will start needing some maintenance accordingly. Weiss reviewed the following upcoming projects: construction of 4 cabins at Deep Lakes Park; construction of playground equipment, a shelter and a restroom at Discovery Park; a pit style restroom by the new shelter house at Deep Lakes; and a pit style restroom by the first shelter in Discovery Park. Saucedo asked Weiss to provide him with information regarding how much and the types of fertilizer, herbicides and seeds used by Conservation. Sorensen suggested researching how much they could save on electricity by switching their lights at Discovery Center to LED.

Unity Public Health Director Christy Roby-Williams reviewed the FY19/20 budget request for Public Health stating the County subcontracts the essential public health services with Trinity Muscatine Hospital. The FY18/19 Budget for essential public health services was \$217,098 whereas \$223,611 is requested for FY19/20.

County Treasurer Amy Zybarth reviewed the FY19/20 budget request for the Treasurer's Office stating she is showing a substantial increase of \$300,000 to revenue due to increased interest rates. Zybarth stated postage is increasing due to license plates being replaced in FY19/20. Zybarth stated publications and notices increased due to an increase in rates.

County Recorder Sarah Hearst reviewed the FY19/20 budget request for the Recorder's Office stating recordings are down substantially from prior years.

The Board recessed at 1:40 P.M. and reconvened at 1:56 P.M.

County Engineer Keith White reviewed the FY19/20 budget request for Secondary Roads stating construction projects are budgeted at \$2,005,000 based on the County's Five-Year Plan. White stated new equipment is budgeted as follows: two tandem trucks with snow equipment - \$392,000; a motor grader with trade-in - \$162,000; a 930M wheel loader with trade-in - \$16,000; two medium duty trucks with trades - \$101,000; three light duty trucks with trades - \$91,000; entrance paving between buildings 1 and 3 - \$250,000; and a GPS Network Rover and Data Collector - \$15,000. White stated he has budgeted for an additional mechanic because he feels it is time to hire another employee as they have consistently been using a Curry's employee 40 hours per week. Saucedo would like to see the tracking of the equipment in the future to see if there are any pieces of equipment that are underutilized. White stated the maintenance budget totals \$7,471,000.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 P.M.

ATTEST:

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Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

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Nathan Mather, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors