

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, January 12, 2009

The Muscatine County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 9:00 A.M. with Furlong, Dean, Shultz, Kelly and Watkins present. Chairperson Shultz presiding.

On a motion by Dean, second by Kelly, the agenda was approved as written. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Watkins, second by Furlong, claims dated January 12, 2009 were approved in the amount of \$516,901.37. Ayes: All. The Board directed Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber to send an e-mail to departments advising them that there is a county facility available in the future for large groups rather than renting the River Center.

On a motion by Furlong, second by Dean, the Board confirmed the appointment of C.J. Ryan as Chief Deputy and the promotion of Ardyth Orr to Sergeant in the Sheriff's Office. Ayes: All. Sheriff Dave White introduced Deputy Sheriff Brian Utter.

Discussion was held regarding the use of County property for a geothermal system for the Public Safety Building. A motion was made by Kelly and seconded by Dean to offer the City utilization of the area under the existing parking lot at the corner of 5th and Walnut for a geothermal system. Discussion ensued with Dean stating that a free standing work release center is no longer being considered. Watkins stated that he is frustrated that the City did not return to the Board after the testing before proceeding with the project. Watkins does not believe the Jail can be converted to geothermal with the ground that is available where the old annex used to be because that area will only do a 50 bed facility and the current Jail already has a 100 bed capacity before any expansion of the Jail. Watkins also questioned whether the courthouse lawn could be used without damaging tree roots. Furlong stated that he thought that the City would only be using the portion of that block that was under the existing parking lot, but that he would agree if the City would allow the County to use city property if needed in the future. Dean stated that the current study of capacity is only being done on the courthouse. Shultz stated that he agrees with everything stated so far and that he also never thought the City intended to use the grassy area and he would only be willing to offer the existing parking area. Shultz stated that he is really concerned with vertical wells in the grassy area. Sheriff Dave White stated that the ideal situation would be to have the work release and jail under the same roof minimally replacing the 5000 square foot of the current work release facility. White stated that a single story facility of slab construction across the street would be the next best option which should not interfere with geothermal in that area. Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas reported that Northwest Mechanical stated it would be very difficult to maintain the original architecture of the courthouse with a full conversion to geothermal, but that the Jail would be easy to convert. Public Works Director Randy Hill stated that the City will be awarding a contract Thursday night looking at five different options of which the Geothermal portion is only 20% of the project and would not be started until around March which allows some time for the County to consider their options. The original motion by Kelly, seconded by Dean, was

withdrawn. On a motion by Watkins, second by Furlong, the Board authorized the Chairperson to appoint members to a negotiation team to negotiate a contract for future Board consideration with the City of Muscatine for use of the northwest corner of County property at 5th and Walnut under the existing parking lot for a geothermal system for the Public Safety building with the contract to include who is responsible for cleanup, damage repair and a clause to allow the County future use of a portion of the City parking lot across from the Jail. Ayes: All. Chairperson Shoultz appointed himself, Watkins and Furnas to the negotiating team. Chairperson Shoultz and Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas will look at ascertaining the jail capacity needs for conversion to a geothermal system either through a study added to the current courthouse study or by getting current information from another source.

Discussion was held with Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas regarding applications to be submitted for the seven properties proposed for buyout. Furnas stated that the properties will be acquired at a total cost of \$780,000 with the 15% local match covered by a grant through the State of Iowa. Furnas stated that most of the properties are located right along Hwy 22 in the Cedar River, Pike Run and Iron City areas. Furnas stated the County cannot ever sell the property, but could lease it out as wetland area, extra yard or parking space. On a motion by Kelly, second by Watkins, the Chair was authorized to sign seven Hazard Mitigation Grant Property Acquisition Project applications (HMGP 1763). Ayes: All.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Furlong, the Board re-appointed Larry Fitchner to the Conesville Benefitted Fire District for a three-year term ending December 31, 2011 pending appointment by the Louisa County Board of Supervisors. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Dean, second by Furlong, the Board re-appointed Martha Peterson, Jeannette Phillips and Wayne Corriell to the Judicial Magistrate Appointing Committee for six-year terms ending December 31, 2014. Ayes: All.

Discussion was held with County Auditor Leslie Soule regarding the compensation rate for township clerks and trustees. Soule stated that the last time compensation of township clerks and trustees was discussed appears to be in 1996 and that they are being paid \$10 per meeting and \$10 per hour plus mileage for other township business conducted. Soule stated that over the years it has become harder to find citizens willing to take on the job of township clerk or trustee as the paperwork has become quite complex due to changes in state requirements. On a motion by Watkins, second by Kelly, the compensation rate for township clerks and trustees was set at \$15 per meeting and \$10 per hour when working on other township business plus mileage at the county mileage rate effective January 12, 2009. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Dean, second by Kelly, the Board accepted the Recorder's Report of Fees Collected for the quarter ending December 31, 2008 in the amount of \$53,264.03. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Furlong, the Board accepted the Auditor's Report of Fees Collected for the quarter ending December 31, 2008 in the amount of \$12,682.26. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Dean, minutes of the Monday, January 5, 2009 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

The Board received a letter from Muscatine City Mayor O'Brien formally requesting the County consider implementation of a countywide Emergency Management Tax Levy.

Watkins, Kelly and Dean received a call from Ronald Storjohann on trustee compensation.

Committee Reports:

Kelly attended a Muscatine Health Association meeting on January 7th.

Dean attended a Department of Corrections meeting on January 9th.

The Board met with Felicia Toppert, Department of Human Services, regarding their budget request of \$128,531 for FY09/10. Their FY08/09 allocation was \$155,180. Toppert updated the Board on a proposal to relocate DHS offices to the County's former care facility building stating that DHS would utilize the entire first floor which would allow the County to lease out the second and third floors to other tenants and utilize the basement as a community room. Superintendent Tom Williams, MHS Principal Bob Wheaton and MHS Assistant Principal Diane Campbell addressed the Board about the possibility of leasing the entire second floor for an alternative high school housing approximately 20 students with 4 to 8 staff members. Wheaton stated the location is in close proximity to the high school and ag learning center and that they are in the process of looking at their options and will return with a formal proposal at a later time.

The meeting recessed at 10:07 A.M. and reconvened at 10:19 A.M. to hear budget requests for FY09/10 from outside agencies with Furlong, Dean, Shoultz, Kelly and Watkins present.

EMS-Mileage and Hotel Reimbursement for Training - Tom Summit

FY08/09 Allocation \$1,396 FY09/10 Request \$1,428

Unity – Community Nursing Subsidy – Jane Caes and Mary O'Dell

FY08/09 Allocation \$175,704 FY09/10 Request \$175,704

Y-Family Program Services (Young Moms) – Bret Olson and Diana Broderson

FY08/09 Allocation \$15,000 FY09/10 Request \$22,660

MCSA Case Coordinator – Sister Irma Ries

FY08/09 Allocation \$26,265 FY09/10 Request \$27,053

MCSA Shelter Subsidy – Sister Irma Ries

FY08/09 Allocation \$27,000 FY09/10 Request \$27,810

Muscatine Legal Services – Roland Caldwell

FY08/09 Allocation \$20,000 FY09/10 Request \$21,000

The Board recessed at 11:26 A.M. and reconvened at 1:00 P.M. to hear budget requests for FY09/10 from outside agencies with Furlong, Dean, Shoultz, Kelly and Watkins present.

River Bend Transit – Randy Zobrist

FY08/09 Allocation \$7,533 FY09/10 Request \$7,759

Senior Resources – Barb Kral, Ann Carroll and Sue Honts

FY08/09 Allocation \$41,641 FY09/10 Request \$43,300

Muscatine County Humane Society – Chris McGinnis

FY08/09 Allocation \$15,000 FY09/10 Request \$15,450

Greater Muscatine Chamber of Commerce and Industry – Bill Phelan and Greg Jenkins

FY08/09 Allocation \$10,000 FY09/10 Request \$28,000

The Board recessed at 1:52 P.M. and reconvened at 2:01 P.M. to hear budget requests for FY09/10 from outside agencies with Furlong, Dean, Shoultz, Kelly and Watkins present.

Wilton Development Corporation – Bill Fedder

FY08/09 Allocation \$3,300 FY09/10 Request \$3,300

WELEAD (West Liberty Development) – Karen Lathrop

FY08/09 Allocation \$3,300 FY09/10 Request \$3,200

Muscatine County Fair Board – Lori Gosenberg was unable to attend due to road conditions and will reschedule.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:24 P.M.

ATTEST:

Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

Wayne E. Shoultz, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors