

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, January 23, 2012 – Special Session

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

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

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Howard, claims dated January 23, 2012 were approved in the amount of \$275,920.91. Ayes: All.

Veteran Affairs Administrator Sara Creamer reviewed the FY12/13 budget request for Veterans Affairs stating that the Van is being utilized 4-5 days a week, increasing in the last few months. Creamer stated that Veterans are very appreciative of this service and they could use more volunteer drivers. Creamer stated she is currently servicing 40-45 ongoing veterans and 25 new veterans. Creamer explained that the \$10,000 State Grant has to be used for office expenditures, new equipment, training and outreach. Watkins asked Creamer to pass on to the drivers, appreciation for their service.

Community Services Director Mike Johannsen reviewed the FY12/13 budget request for General Assistance stating he is presenting a status quo budget. Johannsen stated that Muscatine County helps both poor and needy below 100% of the poverty line. Johannsen stated that the County has partnered with the food pantry for food and the MCSA Shelter Program for shelter in an effort to help both the poor and needy. Johannsen stated that the Y-Family Program is unique in that it helps steer people in other directions for help away from County services. Howard asked if the funding went away for the Y-Family Program, what would happen. Johannsen stated that the question has to do with what is the right balance and what is in the best interest of the poor people in Muscatine County and he thinks the balance is good and the County is getting a lot of service for its investment. Johannsen stated that the Y-Family program gets people away from welfare and steers them towards standing on their own. Watkins asked if programs should consolidate to eliminate some of the administrative costs. Kelly stated she does not think there is a lot of duplication because each group is serving a different clientele. Kelly stated that the Y-Family Program is providing a lot of service for the small amount of funding they are getting from the County. Sorensen stated he would like to know how many clients are referred to the Y-Family Program.

Community Services Director Mike Johannsen reviewed FY12/13 budget requests for Mental Health stating that he is presenting a status quo budget even though current legislation sunsets them on July 1, 2013. Johannsen stated the Governor's proposal would allow Muscatine County to keep the property taxes, case management reimbursement, consumer payments, trust fees and some miscellaneous revenue. Johannsen stated he believes Muscatine County will be able to make it through this fiscal year and next. Johannsen stated that his area of concern moving forward is that if there is a move towards regionalization, what will Muscatine County be able to keep. Watkins suggested

Johannsen draft a letter for Board signature to the Legislators suggesting no regionalization and development of an accreditation program that can hold counties accountable. Watkins stated he has no problem with allowing Counties who want to regionalize voluntarily. Board consensus was for Mike to develop the letter for the Board to approve at a future meeting.

The Board recessed at 10:30 A.M. and reconvened at 10:40 A.M.

The Board held ongoing discussion of the proposed FY12/13 Muscatine County Budget. Budget Coordinator Sherry Seright provided fund summaries and levy information based on departmental requests. Seright stated borrowing 3.5 million over 10 years at 3.5% would still lower the Debt Service levy by 16 cents. Seright also estimated a reduction of 6 cents to restore the General Basic levy back to \$3.50 per thousand and a reduction to the Mental Health levy of 8 cents. Seright stated the total reduction to the County levy would be 30 cents per thousand. Seright stated that the reduction to the Debt Service levy includes borrowing 3.5 million a cost of approximately 24 cents per thousand. Furlong stated he would like to know how much of the increase of valuation is due to the retirement of the SSAB TIF and he might consider reducing the Rural Services levy. Kelly stated she feels the funding is needed for the roads and bridges and does not want to reduce the rate. Sorensen stated he would support giving more to Secondary Roads.

County Assessor Dale McCrea stated that the increase in valuation for SSAB is about \$76,000,000 which accounts for most of the increase in valuation. Furlong stated he is much more comfortable leaving the levy rate for Rural Services as is since most of the increase is due to SSAB and new construction. Furlong suggested increasing funding to Secondary Roads to increase the brush cleaning effort.

Kelly stated she is in favor of hiring the collections person and the victim coordinator, but not the additional attorney in the Attorney's Office.

Watkins wants to discuss staffing issues sooner than the 31st. Furlong left at 11:35 A.M.

Board consensus was to discuss staffing tomorrow, along with capital projects.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:39 A.M.

ATTEST:

Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

Jeff Sorensen, Vice-Chairperson
Board of Supervisors

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, January 23, 2012 – Regular Session

The Muscatine County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 7:00 P.M. with Furlong, Howard, Kelly, Watkins and Sorensen present. Chairperson Kelly presiding.

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

Maintenance Supervisor Troy Sievert presented bids for replacement of the floor at Optimae as follows: Noble Construction - \$21,945.50 with a unit price of \$92 a piece for “sistering” 2 X 12 floor joists; and North Construction - \$22,000.00 with a unit price of \$365 a piece for “sistering” 2 X 12 floor joists. On a motion by Watkins, second by Howard, the Board accepted a bid for replacement of the floor at Optimae from Noble Construction subject to review by Maintenance Supervisor Troy Sievert. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Howard, second by Sorensen, minutes of the Monday, January 16, 2012 regular meeting and Tuesday, January 17, 2012 special meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

Notice of a public hearing February 13th at 7:00 P.M. for a proposed annexation in the City of Wilton.

Howard received an email and phone call regarding the handling of budgets, levies and County unions. Howard stated that over the past 17 years previous Boards have done well at controlling the budget as evidenced by relatively stable levy rates over that period.

Howard received a phone call from a Paul Ryder, a slag vendor from Indiana.

Kelly received a phone call reporting junk vehicles at 1936 Jewett Avenue.

Howard and Sorensen received a call eliciting support through County funding for the Muscatine County Fair Board.

Committee Reports:

Sorensen attended a Wilton Development Corporation meeting January 18th.

Watkins attended a Riverbend Transit meeting January 18th.

Watkins and Furlong attended a MUSCOM meeting January 19th.

Furlong attended a West Liberty Economic Area Development meeting January 19th.

Furlong attended a Muscatine County Fair Board meeting January 19th.

Howard attended a Muscatine County Conservation Board meeting January 16th.

Watkins stated that he read about a yellow dot program which is in operation in Illinois and Scott County that informs emergency personnel that a person has medical information stored in their glove box.

The Board reviewed the health/dental fund balance as of December 31, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 P.M.

ATTEST:

Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

Jeff Sorensen, Vice-Chairperson
Board of Supervisors

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Tuesday, January 24, 2012

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

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

The Board reviewed the FY12/13 MUSCOM budget with MUSCOM Manager Lorrie Lacina. Lacina stated that the budget was approved by her Board last night. Furlong stated they are reducing carryover by \$25,000 to keep the budget down, but that Lacina does a good job of staying within her budget so there may be funds left at the end of FY11/12 to cover the \$25,000 proposed reduction to reserves. Lacina stated she has added Lead Shift Supervisors who are paid a 50 cent per hour premium.

The Board held ongoing discussion of the proposed FY12/13 Muscatine County Budget.

Discussion was held regarding County staffing with Howard stating he feels staffing has not kept pace with technology and the Board should look at a reduction. Howard stated that the County Treasurer talked about taking over driver license issuance from the State without adjusting his staff which looks like he is currently overstaffed. Howard stated he feels the Board needs to also look at the Recorder, Auditor, Administration and Assessor. Furlong stated this was brought up two years ago and he agrees that the Board should look at this again. Watkins and Sorensen stated that they agree. Kelly stated that personnel are still needed to operate the technology. Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber was directed to ask department heads from the Auditor, Recorder, Treasurer and Administration to meet with the Board next Tuesday to discuss staff levels in those offices. Schreiber was directed to request that the Assessor add staffing level discussion to their Conference Board agenda. Schreiber was directed to also add severance package discussion to the agenda.

Discussion was held regarding proposed FY12/13 capital projects. Projects were presented and discussed individually by Maintenance Supervisor Troy Sievert. Board consensus was to meet with the Historical Society in February to discuss possible disposition of the "Old Sheriff's" Office.

The Board recessed at 10:21 A.M. and reconvened at 10:40 A.M.

Board consensus was to complete the following in the current fiscal year: Community Services Roof - \$50,000; Optimae Water Heater - \$5,000; Optimae Tuckpoint - \$50,000; "Old Sheriff's" Building - \$90,000; Historic Jail Tuckpoint - \$65,000; Historic Jail Exterior Rehabilitation - \$20,000, Courthouse Sprinkler System - \$12,000; Judges Chamber Remodel - \$25,000; Courthouse Sidewalks - \$125,000; Optimae Flooring - \$22,000; Community Services Handrail - \$10,000; Community Services Controls - \$23,000 for a total of \$497,000.

Board consensus was to include the following in the FY12/13 capital projects budget: DHS Geothermal (phase 1) - \$674,000; "Old" Jail Geothermal - \$1,173,000; and Administration Building Rehabilitation and HVAC - \$1,753,000 for a total of \$3,600,000.

Board consensus was to move the following to FY13/14 for further review: DHS Roof Repair - \$65,000; and Optimae HVAC - \$193,000 for a total of \$258,000.

Further discussion ensued regarding possible bonding of \$3,600,000 to fund the FY12/13 capital projects. Board consensus was to add \$150,000 to the proposed borrowing to enable the Board to fund projects for both FY12/13 and FY13/14 and to break it down to a \$750,000 project for DHS Geothermal/Roof and a \$3,000,000 borrowing and carryover to cover the other projects. On a motion by Watkins, second by Furlong, the Board authorized Maintenance Supervisor Troy Sievert to proceed with bid letting for the Optimae Tuckpoint/Water Heater, Community Services Roof/Handrail, Courthouse Sidewalks (with Heated Sidewalks as an alternate option)/Lawn Sprinklers/Judges Chambers Remodel, and Historic Jail Tuckpoint/Rehabilitation projects. Ayes: All.

The Board directed Maintenance Supervisor Troy Sievert to develop a construction calendar on the County's website. Sievert was also directed to return next week with a schedule for getting the approved projects completed.

Discussion was held regarding FY12/13 Capital Expenditure requests with Budget Coordinator Sherry Seright. Board consensus was to include the following in FY12/13 Capital Expenditures: Auditor - \$11,000 for archival of old books; Conservation - \$35,000 for replacement of the small dump truck. Sheriff - \$105,000 for four squad cars; Recorder - \$7,000 for a copier and passport camera; Secondary Roads - \$597,000 in the Secondary Roads budget for replacement of equipment. Board consensus was to reserve \$80,000 for electronic pollbooks in the General Supplemental fund balance, but it will not be appropriated to the Election budget and will require a budget amendment should the Board decide they want to move forward with the implementation of electronic pollbooks.

Information Services Director Bill Riley stated that he is waiting to hear from MP&W on a cost for a connection between the Sheriff's Office/Engineer and the Administration Building. Riley stated he can replace the current wireless connection to allow for a full duplex connection between the two sites at a cost of \$8,000. Riley stated that annual maintenance for Microsoft costs \$26,405.97, but may have to be revised due to the addition of deputies to the system and the recent hiring of additional corrections officers. The Board directed Riley to proceed with the password reset/unlock tool for \$520 per year. Riley stated that the Dell virtual server budgeted for \$40,000 next year is available right now for \$19,776 if purchased by February 3, 2012, but would require a budget amendment this year. Board consensus was to proceed with purchasing the equipment by February 3, 2012. Board consensus was to replace the \$40,000 in next year's budget for the virtual server with \$8,000 in next year's budget for the wireless connection.

Watkins stated he wants to place consideration of a deadline for the Clerk of Court to clean out the dungeon and former County Attorney front area on next Monday's agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:12 P.M.

ATTEST:

Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

Jeff Sorensen, Vice-Chairperson
Board of Supervisors