

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, January 11, 2010

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

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

Leslie Everett, 21227 County Road G62, Winfield, IA presented aerial pictures showing situations in Orono and Pike Townships, west of the Cedar River where he has drainage concerns. Dean suggested Everett address the issue with County Engineer Keith White. Furlong stated that the Board usually does not get involved in draining fields as land owners usually form drainage districts for that purpose. Shoultz would like White to meet with Everett and come back to the Board with information. Shoultz would also like Zoning Administrator Jeremy Underwood to investigate Conesville's issues of overflow to their sewer system. The Board will review the situation with the County Engineer and place the item on a future agenda for discussion.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Furlong, claims dated January 11, 2010 were approved in the amount of \$344,498.13. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Watkins, second by Furlong, the Chairperson was authorized to sign a letter to various State legislators opposing the proposed diversion of \$50 million annually from the Road Use Tax Fund to the Iowa State Highway Patrol. Ayes: All.

Discussion was held with County Engineer Keith White regarding the Federal Functional Classification for Muscatine County. White explained the current classification and the proposed recommendations. White asked for the resolution to be tabled while he works out approval at the State level of his proposed recommendation. On a motion by Watkins, second by Shoultz, the Board tabled a resolution amending the Muscatine Federal Functional Classification. Ayes: All.

White stated that the Federal Aid Stimulus Project on F70 has been audited and they commented that the County had an excellent set of construction documentation which White said is thanks to his staff. White stated that all of the 99 counties were asked to provide numbers to Homeland Security and FEMA for the December 22nd and forward winter storm events. White stated that Western Iowa was devastated, but that Muscatine County is eligible for overtime, materials and equipment time which amounts to approximately \$40,000 in materials and \$80,000 in overtime and equipment time.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Shoultz, the Board re-appointed Bruce Bryant as the Muscatine County Weed Commissioner for a one-year term ending December 31, 2010. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Furlong, second by Watkins, the Board re-appointed Heather Shoppa as the Eastern Iowa Tourism Association representative and Jane Daufeldt as the alternate for one-year terms ending December 31, 2010. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Watkins, second by Kelly, the Board affirmed an updated list of Muscatine County Medical Examiners and Deputy Medical Examiners/Medical Examiner Investigators for terms ending December 31, 2010 as follows: Medical Examiner Dr. Mark Odell; Deputy Medical Examiners Linda Cooley, M.D., David Gierlus, D.O., Collette Hostetler, M.D., James Kwirant, M.D., Manasi Nadkarni, M.D., Steven Paulsrud, D.O., Hamad Sagha, M.D., Ashley Schmieg, D.O., Matthew Sojka, M.D., Robert Weis, M.D., and David Wettach, M.D.; Medical Examiner Investigators Bill Wilson, Thomas Summitt, and Darren Brooke. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Shoultz, the Board re-appointed Dudley Coker to the Muscatine County Building Board of Appeals for a three-year term ending December 31, 2012. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Shoultz, second by Kelly, the Board re-appointed William Koellner, Neva Rettig-Baker and Dr. Edgardo Yutangco to the Muscatine County Board of Health for three year terms ending December 31, 2012. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Watkins, second by Kelly, the Board re-appointed David Jones to the Muscatine County Conservation Board for a five-year term ending December 31, 2014. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Furlong, second by Shoultz, the Board re-appointed John Murphy to the Conesville Benefitted Fire District for a three-year term ending December 31, 2012 subject to appointment by the Louisa County Board of Supervisors. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Shoultz, second by Furlong, the Board approved the Muscatine County Auditor's Report of Fees Collected for the quarter ending December 31, 2009 in the amount of \$6,493.32. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Watkins, second by Kelly, the Board approved the Muscatine County Recorder's Report of Fees Collected for the quarter ending December 31, 2009 in the amount of \$70,195.29. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Furlong, second by Shoultz, the Board approved the Muscatine County Civil Department's Report of Fees Collected for the quarter ending December 31, 2009 in the amount of \$35,742.61. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Shoultz, the Board approved the Muscatine County Treasurer's Report of Fees Collected for the quarter ending December 31, 2009 in the amount of \$103,688.66. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Watkins, the Board approved the Muscatine County Treasurer's Semi Annual Report for July 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Shoultz, second by Kelly, minutes of the Monday, January 4, 2010 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

Shoultz stated that he had a conversation with an individual who was happy that County Engineer Keith White received recognition from the Iowa State County Engineers.

Furlong received a complaint on snow removal in his area, but he thought Secondary Roads had done a very good job with the amount of snow we had.

Committee Reports:

Kelly attended a Muscatine County Health Association meeting January 6th.

Dean attended a Seventh Judicial District meeting January 8th.

Shoultz attended a Civil War Memorial Committee meeting January 10th.

Discussion was held regarding possible disposition of the Civil War Memorial statue. Shoultz stated that the committee had met with the Art Center who asked if they could have the soldier on top of the monument after it is removed. Shoultz stated that the Art Center would keep it displayed indoors. On a motion by Furlong, second by Kelly, the Board will donate the soldier from the Civil War Memorial to the Muscatine Art Center after it is removed. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Shoultz, second by Kelly, the Board approved the December, 2009 payroll claims. Ayes: All.

The Board reviewed the health/dental fund balance as of December 31, 2009.

The Board recessed at 10:01 A.M. and reconvened at 10:08 A.M. to review budget requests.

Information Services Director Bill Riley reviewed the FY10/11 budget request for the Information Services department stating that in order to reduce his budget he will replace backup tapes once every two years and extend server warranties out to 7 years. Riley stated that he will try to replace 30 desktop stations each year with major users being replaced every four years.

County Auditor Leslie Soule reviewed the FY10/11 budget request for the Auditor and Elections stating that she has some additional reductions to the FY09/10 and FY10/11 Auditor budget to achieve an overall 5% reduction. Soule stated that due to this being a General Election year, she did not feel she could achieve a reduction in the Elections budget, but she did keep it at 100% with no increase in FY10/11. Soule stated that she

cannot really control election expenses and depending on absentee activity it can be difficult to predict, but that if she finds she does not need all of the funds, she will not spend them.

County Treasurer Jerry Coffman reviewed the FY10/11 budget request for the Treasurer's Office stating that he could only achieve a 3.7% cut through reductions in FY09/10 and FY10/11. Coffman stated that he cannot reduce his budget anymore without the use of furlough days. Coffman suggested the Board look at making further cuts to the outside agencies and the benefits package, possibly eliminating or reducing the annuity benefit. Dean stated that reducing the annuity is not a good thing to do in a year when employees may not be seeing increased wages.

Budget Coordinator Sherry Seright explained the difference between General Basic (Fund 0001) and General Supplemental (Fund 0002) stating that Fund 0002 pays benefits, elections, and MUSCOM, but that all salaries and operating expenses for many of the departments are paid out of Fund 0001. Seright stated that the County can levy over \$3.50 per thousand if a separate notice is published with the proposed budget stating that the County must increase the levy to fund essential county purposes.

County Recorder Cindy Gray reviewed the FY10/11 budget request for the Recorder's Office stating that she reduced her budget through the increase of some revenues and reducing expenditures in both FY09/10 and FY10/11.

Conservation Director Curt Weiss reviewed the FY10/11 budget request for Conservation stating that he will be at a 5% cut in the Conservation budget with some reductions to FY09/10 and FY10/11. Weiss cautioned that the reduction has been achieved through delaying equipment replacement which could come back to haunt them in future years. Weiss stated that he is still planning on proceeding with Youth Corps for at least one more year. Weiss stated that the salary increase is not an increase for next year, but rather the 2.5% from last year that was not included in the FY09/10 budget, but is already been given and needs to be included in future budgets. Weiss stated that an Americorps worker has been a great help, but that the County may lose that person in August as Linn County is dropping the program. Weiss stated that he has been using \$5,000 of REAP money to fund the County's share of that person. Weiss stated he may have to use that REAP money for a part-time person to replace that worker. Weiss pointed out that since Levee District #17 was reactivated, Conservation now pays \$2,800 a year in levee district taxes.

The Board recessed at 11:20 A.M. and reconvened at 1:00 P.M. with Furlong, Shoultz, Dean, Kelly and Watkins present.

Sheriff Dave White reviewed the FY10/11 budget request for the Sheriff's Office and Jail stating that he had to increase the vehicle maintenance on the patrol cars due to driving them longer, but they have removed one car from the budget. White stated that right now he does not plan to replace the deputy that retired last week until they get more federal prisoner revenue. Watkins stated that he would like to cut that position at this time. White stated that if you take someone out of the mix permanently, overtime will increase.

White explained that he is looking at hiring a total of 6 additional people for the new jail pod, but that they would only be added as prisoner count increases. White stated that instead of people coming in on weekends to serve jail sentences, they will offer them the option of participating on a work crew to pick up trash. White feels this will open cells for federal prisoners and allow an alternative to sitting in jail. White stated that the County is already realizing savings due to the contract with Advanced Correctional Healthcare. Dean stated that at some point she would like to have a conversation on kitchen operations with the new jail pod. White stated that they are going to use more inmates in the new kitchen. White stated that they will also be able to buy supplies by the semi load after the new jail pod is completed which should realize some savings.

Medical Examiner Investigator Tom Summitt reviewed the FY10/11 budget request for Medical Examiner stating that Trinity will no longer use Weland labs and the new lab will not do autopsies so that we may have to go further for an autopsy possibly even Ankeny. Summitt will continue to look for closer alternatives.

The Board recessed at 2:25 P.M. and reconvened at 2:30 P.M.

Community Services Director Mike Johannsen, and Case Management Coordinator Kathie Anderson-Noel reviewed FY10/11 budget requests for General Assistance, Veterans Affairs and Mental Health stating that they were able to remove over \$30,000 from the General Fund by lowering maximum monthly assistance limits in both General Assistance and Veterans Affairs. Johannsen stated that he plans to amend the Mental Health Plan to include payment of mental health prescriptions for participants with Mental Illness rather than through General Assistance. Bill Law, Veterans Affairs Commission, stated that he is currently trying to get the grave markers and flags funded through the other Veterans organizations. Law stated that the Commissioners are currently waiving their \$25 per meeting fee and working on a volunteer basis at this time. Johannsen stated the mental health budget will put the ending balance in the mental health fund at 3% which will put them into the state pool for allowable growth, but the current law looks at fund balances from two years ago which were much higher. Johannsen stated that they are trying to introduce legislation that would look at the most recent year ending fund balance for the allowable growth formula. Johannsen will develop a letter for the Board to sign to send to legislators encouraging them to support the legislation. Human Resources Director Nancy Schreiber stated that the budget still includes the vacant Case Management position. Anderson-Noel stated that they are not allowed to have a waiting list for targeted case management.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 P.M.

ATTEST:

Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

Esther J. Dean, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors