

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors  
Tuesday, January 12, 2010

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

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

The Board reviewed budget funding requests.

County Attorney Gary Allison reviewed the FY10/11 budget request for the County Attorney's Office stating that he cut \$8,000 out of non-personnel items (15%).

Administrative Services Director Eric Furnas reviewed the FY10/11 budget request for Administration Office and Board of Supervisors stating that they do not have much in their budget that is non-personnel so his reduction is based on taking a staff member to half time. Kelly stated she is not in favor of cutting a staff member to half time. The Board suggested trying to save some money by having the IS Department video tape the meetings. Seright stated that Bill Riley had spoken with Chad Bishop and thought they could possibly save \$3,000 - \$4,000 on televising the meetings. Board consensus was to review their contract with MP&W and MCC and see if there is a way to save some money. Seright stated that Bishop is supposed to send her a contract today. Watkins stated that the Board should take the steps to start capturing the franchise fee on the cable bills for residents in rural Muscatine County. Board consensus was to get information on pursuing the franchise fee. Kelly suggested reducing Board expenses to \$250, but the Board did not agree. Shoultz suggested a total amount for the entire board rather than by district, but the consensus of the Board was to keep each district at \$500. Dean stated she is also not in favor of reducing administration staff to half time. Board consensus was to put the full-time staff person back in budget. Kelly suggested emailing Board packets. The Board felt they could try that and see how it works.

Administrative Services Director Eric Furnas reviewed the FY10/11 budget request for General Services stating that the biggest reduction is in staff by not filling vacant positions of which he has two, a third maintenance position and a full-time janitorial position. Furnas stated that a part-time person cleans DHS and three full-time custodial persons clean the other buildings. Furnas stated that he has had contact with Sheriff White about using a work crew to mow the lawns. Human Resources Director Nancy Schreiber stated that the Sheriff plans to use Transport Officers to supervise the work crews which could cause some additional cost if they end up falling under a correctional officer status. Dean stated she remains concerned about cleanliness in the Courthouse and other buildings with less staff. Furnas stated that he cannot guarantee they will not see a decrease in services. Dean stated that she does not want to see a decrease in cleanliness at the Courthouse.

The Board reviewed the FY10/11 budget requests for Court Services and Nondepartmental.

The Board reviewed proposed Capital Projects for the FY10/11 County budget. A \$750,000 capital project was budgeted through debt service for geothermal at the Courthouse. Board consensus was that repairs need to be performed on windows in the Administration building and on sidewalks at the Courthouse. Budget Coordinator Sherry Seright stated that those projects as well as a tuckpointing project at the Historic Jail for which a grant would have a 50% match are not currently in the budget.

Discussion was held regarding salaries and step increases. Schreiber stated that the cost to the General Fund of step increases is approximately \$13,000. Kelly stated she would like to see steps in the budget if at all possible. The Board also discussed the annuity benefit. Schreiber stated may need to wait a year to decide some of the issues with the health insurance, but find a way this year to get money in that fund. The Board directed Schreiber to develop options for them to consider next week. The Board directed Schreiber to include steps only in the budget workpapers, but to also have the effect of a 1% increase as an option by department.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:08 A.M.

ATTEST:

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Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

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Esther J. Dean, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors