

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Wednesday, January 23, 2019

The Muscatine County Board of Supervisors met in special session at 9:05 A.M. with Holliday, Sauer, Mather, Sorensen and Saucedo present. Chairperson Mather presiding.

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

The Board canvassed the Drainage District #10 Election held on January 19, 2019. Results were as follows: For the office of Trustee for a three-year term beginning January 26, 2019 – 5 votes were cast. Dustin Lampe received 5 votes. Dustin Lampe was elected.

The Board canvassed the Levee District #17 Election held on January 19, 2019. Results were as follows: For the office of Trustee for a three-year term beginning January 26, 2019 – 4 votes were cast. Keith Barnhart received 4 votes. Keith Barnhart was elected.

The Board canvassed the Muscatine-Louisa Island Levee Third District Election held on January 19, 2019. Results were as follows: For the office of Trustee for a three-year term beginning January 26, 2019 – 7 votes were cast. Rodd McNeal received 7 votes. Rodd McNeal was elected.

The Board canvassed the Muscatine-Louisa Drainage District #13 First District Election held on January 19, 2019. Results were as follows: For the office of Trustee for a three-year term beginning January 26, 2019 – 4,554 votes were cast. Rodd McNeal received 4,554 votes. Rodd McNeal was elected.

County Attorney Alan Ostergren reviewed the FY19/20 budget request for the Attorney's Office stating there was no increase to his non-personnel portion of the budget request. Ostergren stated budgeting for litigation expenses is difficult because he cannot predict the number of serious violent crimes that will be prosecuted during the year.

Tom Summitt, Chief Medical Examiner Investigator, reviewed the FY19/20 budget request for Medical Examiner stating there were 90 investigable deaths in 2018 and there have already been 7 investigable deaths in January 2019. Summitt stated the increase in education and training expense is due to turnover which caused new hires that have to be trained and certified. Summitt stated cell phone allowance of \$25 per person has been added to the budget because the medical examiner investigators are on call 365 days per year and also use their personal phones for communication when working on a case.

MUSCOM Manager Beverly Griffith reviewed the FY19/20 budget request for MUSCOM stating the workload has increased over the past two years. Griffith stated call volume increased 13% in FY15/16 and 8% in FY16/17. Griffith stated during FY17/18 there were 16,677 911 calls and 64,331 administrative calls for a total of 81,008 calls. Griffith stated in 2018 they processed 2.5 million radio transmissions which equates to 6,601 per day or 3,300 per 12-hour shift. Sorensen stated there should be a more cost effective way to deal with the administrative calls. Griffith stated she has put a stop to some of the calls that were automatically forwarded to them

from Wilton and West Liberty for after hour utility calls. In response to a question from Saucedo, Griffith stated there are 404 total radios of which all but 8 of the 41 missing radios have been accounted for. In response to a question from Mather, Griffith stated she currently has 12 employees of which 3 are in training. Griffith stated the increase in salaries includes her salary and two additional employees approved FY18/19 by the MUSCOM Commission and one possible additional employee budgeted for FY19/20. Further discussion ensued regarding handling of administrative calls that are not emergency calls. Sorensen stated the MUSCOM Commission needs to look into the bigger problem of how administrative calls are handled, but he sees an opportunity for change to allow the dispatch center to handle only emergency calls. Mather asked what the need is for 13 dispatchers. Griffith stated minimum staffing requirements calls for three dispatchers per shift and most of the time there are only two. Griffith cited several instances when 911 calls came in that were more than the two dispatchers could handle. Mather stated he does not see the justification of hiring an additional dispatcher for a handful of infrequent incidents. Griffith stated the 11th and 12th dispatcher allows three dispatchers on the day shift which allows one dispatcher to be assigned to call taking. Griffith stated the 13th dispatcher would be to allow three on duty at all time. Mather stated he questions whether or not it is necessary to staff at a level of 3 dispatchers per shift. Sorensen stated the MUSCOM Commission still needs to discuss whether or not to add the 13th dispatcher. Sorensen stated it has not been approved at this point and has just been placed in the budget as a placeholder. Griffith stating she has removed part time salaries from the budget and reduced overtime by half.

The Board recessed at 10:52 A.M. and reconvened at 11:00 A.M.

Discussion was held regarding funding for outside agencies to be included in the proposed FY19/20 budget. Board consensus was to fund outside agencies as follows: Muscatine Legal Services - \$29,000; River Bend Transit - \$7,000; Greater Muscatine Chamber of Commerce & Industry - \$10,000; Quad Cities First - \$5,000; Wilton Development Corporation - \$5,000; West Liberty Development Corporation - \$5,000; Muscatine County Fair Board - \$0 for their operating budget; up to \$30,000 match for actual debt reduction between December 31, 2018 and December 31, 2019 excluding debt already matched by the County in FY2019; Wilton Library - \$15,000; West Liberty Library - \$14,500; and Musser Public Library - \$120,325.

The Board held ongoing discussion of the proposed FY19/20 Muscatine County Budget. Board consensus was to leave the following in the FY19/20 proposed budget: Sheriff – addition of another deputy; Zoning – replacement of two vehicles; Auditor – replacement of 22 laptops and purchase of two charging carts; and Conservation – replacement of mower and one vehicle. Board consensus was fund and pay for the Engineer’s parking lot project through debt service, but to leave the \$250,000 in the Engineer’s budget to use on a road project. Sorensen suggested the Board talk to the Engineer about the possible transition of building maintenance to General Services. Board consensus was to include a 2.4% increase in the budget for the Y family program, MCSA Coordinator and Board of Health.

Budget Coordinator Sherry Seright stated she removed the FY19/20 \$311,375 payout to the Eastern Iowa Mental Health Region from the proposed budget. Seright stated the Region would still need to pay Muscatine County \$125,364 in FY19/20 to allow Muscatine County to maintain

a 20% fund balance of \$309,750. Mather stated the County needs to budget as if we will not receive anything from the region.

Board consensus was to proceed with the necessary steps to facilitate borrowing \$1,850,000 in FY19/20 for capital projects.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:34 P.M.

ATTEST:

Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

Jeff Sorensen, Vice-Chairperson
Board of Supervisors