

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, December 30, 2019

The Muscatine County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 9:00 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.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Sorensen, claims dated December 30, 2019 were approved in the amount of \$419,073.93. Ayes: All.

Discussion was held with Chief Medical Examiner Investigator Tom Summitt regarding possible authorization for emergency communication radios for the Medical Examiner's Office Staff. Summitt stated they currently have just have one radio as the rest of their radios were taken from them by the previous Muscom Manager. Summitt stated they would like to have the radios returned or 5 radios purchased for a total cost of \$11,270.00. Summitt stated after law enforcement leaves, they are routinely left alone at the scene of a death and emotions can rapidly change when family arrives so they want the ability to be able to radio law enforcement if needed. In response to a question from Sorensen, Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber stated radios for the Medical Examiner's office were not included in the original plan. Schreiber stated in order for the Medical Examiner's office to be assigned radios, the Board would have to agree that they should have radios and then MCJCC would need to approve the allocation of or purchase of the radios. Sauer stated there would also be user fees associated with these radios. Summitt stated most of the Medical Examiner Investigators live out of town making it difficult to share radios. In response to Sorensen, Schreiber stated there are no insurance concerns with domiciling the radios in their homes. Sorensen stated he will reach out to Chris Jasper about the additional user costs. Summitt stated they would still need the cell phone allowance as they use cell phones a lot to call Medical Examiner Dr. Weis or the University regarding autopsies. Summitt stated the radios are needed because they do not always get service on their cell phones. Sauer stated he feels the Medical Examiner's office needs both radios and cell phones. Board consensus was to consider this request during the upcoming budget sessions.

Discussion was held with Community Services Director Felicia Toppert regarding proposed changes in food assistance from the Muscatine Community Services Office to be effective January 2, 2020. Toppert stated they are in the final stages of eliminating food and non-food sacks for consumers as those are available through MCSA and other sources. Toppert proposed an increase in the monthly food voucher by \$4.00 per household as a supplement to DHS food assistance that meets 80% of food needs per household. Toppert also proposed changing the list of items to be purchased to meat, vegetables, fruit, bread, milk, cheese, peanut butter, and sealed prepared frozen, dry or canned meals only. Toppert proposed adding a non-food voucher for \$10 or \$15 limited to laundry soap, personal bar soap, dish soap and toilet paper only. Toppert stated there will be a new voucher specific to what items are allowed instead of what items are not allowed. Mather stated he would like to see an alternative to peanut butter allowed for those with peanut allergies. Toppert stated the changes should result in lowering the budget or worse case be budget neutral. On a motion by Sorensen, second by Saucedo, the Board adopted changes in

food assistance from the Muscatine County Community Services Office as presented to be effective January 2, 2020. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Saucedo, the Board authorized the re-submission of an application to join the Southeast Iowa Link (SEIL) Mental Health and Disability Services Region effective July 1, 2020 at SEIL Board's January 8, 2020 meeting. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Sorensen, minutes of the December 23, 2019 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

Saucedo attended a meeting regarding a proposal for Grandview Avenue December 17th.

Holliday reported a contact from Ed Askew with concerns regarding the Mental Health Region.

Holliday reported a contact from Dave Watkins regarding a bridge on North Isett Avenue.

Holliday attended a Public Utilities Commission public meeting regarding a proposed transmission line December 19th.

Committee Reports:

Holliday attended a Wilton Development Corporation annual meeting December 18th.

Saucedo attended a West Liberty Economic Area Development (WeLead) meeting December 19th.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Saucedo, the Board accepted the December 2019 payroll claims. Ayes: All.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 A.M.

ATTEST:

Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

Jeff Sorensen, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors