

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, August 15, 2011

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

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

Discussion was held with County Sheriff Dave White regarding a request to hire three additional full-time and three additional part-time Corrections Officers. White reported that the inmate count today was 249 and has been averaging 245 per day. White stated that last month they paid \$13,000 in overtime, which is a third of the overtime budget for the year. White said they are receiving more out of county inmates than expected and the number of local inmates has increased. White said the problem is that since opening the new jail wing they have never been at full manpower, they are short 4 officers and have issues with sick, vacation and training coverage. White said the mental health professional has difficulty making the rounds and the jail administrator is swamped with paperwork so they may need one more administrative person. Howard asked if they had lost employees and White reported that they lose part-time employees to jobs with benefits and full-time employees to law enforcement careers. Furlong said it would be better to use the overtime money for full-time people. Sorensen stated that, with the additional income from out of county inmates, it may be possible to double the bond payment this year. Howard stated it is better to pay when the money is there, you don't want to wait and have the jail sitting empty with no money for the bond payment. White said since they are up from approximately 50 to approximately 75 local inmates per day they are considering running the inmate work program year round and waiving the \$25 per day fee so they can move more people to the weekend work program and free up bed space. On a motion by Furlong, second by Howard, the Board approved hiring three additional full-time and three additional part-time Corrections Officers. Ayes: All. Howard directed Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber to contact the County Attorney regarding the change in statistics since he took office. Kelly stated that the Board should consider the extra stress being put on administrative staff due to the increase in jail employees.

On a motion by Howard, second by Furlong, the Board set a public hearing for Monday, August 22, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. on proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for the Muscatine County Courthouse Tuck Pointing project. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Howard, second by Sorensen, the Board set a public hearing for Monday, August 22, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. on proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for the Muscatine County Courthouse Roof Replacement and Repairs Project. Ayes: All.

The Board reviewed proposals for an evaluation of the Muscatine County Administration Building exterior wall repair. The following bids were received: Shive Hattery, \$6,000; Durrant, \$13,300; Downing Architects, no cost stated. Howard stated that some items were covered by Durrant and not Shive Hattery. Kelly stated the proposals don't seem to be apples to apples. Howard stated that Durrant would be a second opinion. Board consensus was to postpone making a decision until the August 22, 2011 meeting to allow further review.

On a motion by Howard, second by Sorensen, minutes of the Monday, August 8, 2011 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

Board members received a letter concerning employee parking issues.

Howard received a call from a resident upset with the Board Chairman's comments regarding gas tax increases.

Kelly received calls regarding slag.

The Board received a call from Jim Driscoll regarding Share the Road signs being put up by the County Road Department.

Committee Reports:

Kelly attended a 7th Judicial District meeting August 12th.

Furlong attended a WELEAD meeting August 10th.

Kelly and Watkins attended the Governor's Transportation 20/20 Advisory Committee meeting August 10th. Howard attended the Fruitland City Council meeting August 9th and the Search and Rescue meeting August 10th. Furlong attended the Solid Waste Management flow control meeting August 10th.

A monthly meeting was held with Community Services Director Mike Johannsen.

Johannsen reviewed the General Assistance Budget Update and Director's Report, stating that burials were up to 27 for the year and they usually only budget for 18. Johannsen stated the County has an agreement with the funeral home for \$1750 per funeral, with an upcharge for oversized caskets and the City donates grave space. Kelly said if people have plots they are not going to use they can donate them.

Johannsen introduced Food Pantry Coordinator Tim Stelzner. Stelzner stated the food pantry covers 4 basic needs including: daily service that requires no credentials; outreach service to shut-ins and special needs; bag of blessings service for children on weekends. Stelzner stated there is an increase in need and the community helps with donations. Kelly asked about cold storage. Stelzner said storing can be difficult with limited refrigerator and freezer space but they like to buy when costs are down. Stelzner stated that this time of year a lot of fresh produce comes in and it's difficult to keep things clean without fresh water access. The Board directed General Services Director Troy Sievert to look into water access.

Veteran's Affairs Administrator Sara Creamer reviewed the Veteran's Affairs Budget Update and Report, stating that the number of contacts will continue to go up as word gets out. Creamer said they will be getting a van soon and looking for volunteers. Furlong stated that, as a veteran, he appreciates Creamer's efforts.

Case Management Coordinator Kathie Anderson-Noel reviewed the Case Management Budget Update and CM Report, stating that they would be having a chapter 24 survey coming up and she had been asked to participate as a survey volunteer.

Johannsen reviewed the Trust Budget Update and Director's Report, stating the program serves a lot of needs such as conservatorships, guardianships and settling affairs at death with the oversight of the courts and County Attorney.

Johannsen reviewed the CPC Budget Update and Director's Report, stating that any carryover affects the next year. Howard said it will be very important to watch bookkeeping. Johannsen gave an update on Senate File 525 and discussed possible changes in services with the shift to regional administration of funds.

Mary O'Dell, Board of Health, reviewed the Trinity Public Health Report stating the public can receive updates on Facebook by clicking "like" on the Trinity Muscatine Public Health page.

On a motion by Furlong, second by Howard, the Board approved a fireworks permit for Cara Fuller. Ayes: All.

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 A.M.

ATTEST:

Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

David H. Watkins, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors