

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, December 27, 2010

The Muscatine County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 7:00 P.M. with Furlong, Shoultz, Kelly and Watkins present. Dean was absent. Vice-Chairperson Watkins presiding.

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

On a motion by Shoultz, second by Furlong, claims dated December 27, 2010 were approved in the amount of \$556,314.61. Ayes: All.

Discussion was held regarding a proposed contract with the Muscatine Humane Society. Furlong suggested that no funds be allocated to the Humane Society for the second half of FY2011 as he would like to see the County start paying a fee per animal. Furlong referred to several counties that range from zero support for animal shelters to as high as Marshall County that owns their own shelter, but only provides \$7,250 per year of support. Watkins stated that at the Humane Society meeting last week, they suggested that the County could be allowed to bring in 8 animals a month with the current annual allocation. Shoultz stated that most citizens told him they felt the \$75,000 was too high and he talked to the Muscatine City Administrator who stated the City of Muscatine also has questions about their level of support to the Humane Society. Shoultz would like to see more emphasis put back on the owner and would like to see the County sit down with the City of Muscatine and the Humane Society to work out an equitable solution. Kelly stated she is not willing to provide \$75,000 of funding to the Humane Society. Kelly stated that every member of the Board of Supervisors has pets and this has nothing to do with not caring about the animals, but rather being good stewards with taxpayer dollars. Kelly stated she does not have a solution, but has citizens asking why the taxpayers have to pay for individuals bringing in their pets to the Humane Society. Watkins stated that he does not own a pet, but that he feels very strongly that people who have animals should take responsibility for their pet. Watkins feels the Board of Supervisors should probably tell the Humane Society that the County will not pay for any animals unless they are brought in by the Sheriff's Office. Kelly stated those brought in by public health should also be included. Watkins stated the County should pay \$130 for any animal that the Sheriff's Office brings in with a separate fee determined for large animals. Watkins also felt the County should pay an hourly rate and mileage for advisory services requested by the Sheriff's Office. Shoultz stated he would also like to see an ordinance developed that would penalize anyone that abandons their animal. Watkins stated that the Humane Society has decided they need to run the shelter as a business when dealing with the City and County, but they will still need grants and donations. Board consensus was for Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber to develop an agreement for decision next week.

On a motion by Shoultz, second by Furlong, minutes of the Monday, December 20, 2010 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

Furlong, Shoultz and Kelly reported receiving calls regarding the animal shelter issue.

Furlong reported receiving a call regarding road maintenance. Furlong, Kelly, Shoultz

and Watkins all commended the Secondary Roads Department on their job clearing the roads on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Kelly thanked Shoultz for his time on the Board and wished everyone a Happy New Year. Shoultz stated that he does not want to lose sight of the fact that the Muscatine Humane Society does a good job and the Kent family has been very generous over the years in their support of the Humane Society.

Committee Reports:

Watkins attended a Muscatine Humane Society meeting December 20th.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 P.M.

ATTEST:

Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

David H. Watkins, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, January 3, 2011

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

County Auditor Leslie Soule conducted nominations for Chairperson. On a motion by Furlong, second by Kelly, Dave Watkins was elected Chairperson and presided over the remainder of the meeting. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Furlong, second by Shoultz, Kas Kelly was elected Vice-Chairperson. Ayes: All.

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

Discussion was held with County Sheriff Dave White on a staffing request for the new Jail Addition. Sheriff White requested the hiring of 6 additional part-time Corrections Officer positions. In response to Watkins, White stated that if they had a reduction in prisoners after the new pod opens, it would be necessary to layoff some of the positions. On a motion by Furlong, second by Sorensen, the Board authorized the Sheriff to proceed with filling a current vacancy and the six newly created positions. Ayes: All.

Discussion was held with County Attorney Alan Ostergren regarding a staffing request to fill an upcoming vacancy and hiring outside counsel to handle labor negotiations. Ostergren stated that Dana Christiansen has taken a job with the Johnson County Attorney's Office and his office will be losing a vast amount of experience with his departure. Ostergren stated he would like to use the funding freed up with Christiansen leaving and another assistant being promoted to hire a full-time entry level attorney and a part-time experienced attorney. Ostergren stated that his proposal would be a wash financially for the County. Furlong stated he has concern adding two people to replace one employee and wondered if Ostergren could really fill a part-time experienced position. Ostergren stated that he is cautiously optimistic that he can fill the part-time position with an experienced attorney. Howard questioned the additional expense to hire outside counsel for labor negotiations. Ostergren stated it was hard for him to put a cost to labor negotiations as every case is different. Watkins stated he feels the County should hire outside counsel for labor negotiations as he feels it is a conflict of interest for the Attorney's Office to handle negotiations when they work closely with the individuals in those bargaining units. Ostergren stated it is a benefit in general for the County to have someone on the outside that specializes in labor law. Kelly stated that Ostergren is asking to do less work, but he wants another part-time attorney. Ostergren stated his office already does a lot of work with less people, emphasizing that Muscatine County is similar in size to Marshall County who employs eight attorneys. Ostergren stated he envisions the part-time attorney as a salaried position. Furlong stated that he is in favor of hiring a full-time attorney, but not the part-time attorney and he thinks the County should hire outside legal counsel for labor negotiations. Sorensen stated he likes what

Ostergren has done to maintain the bottom line financially and he agrees with moving union negotiations out to a labor attorney. Ostergren stated his fear is that, with limited staffing, his office will not be able to handle the case load generated when lawyers request a speedy trial resulting in the case being dismissed on the grounds they could not get the speedy trial. Watkins stated he does not have a problem with the proposal, but would like to see it approved for only a year at this time to see if Ostergren could bring the new attorney's experience up to a level that would allow for elimination of the part-time attorney within the year. On a motion by Furlong, second by Kelly, the Board tabled decision on this matter until the next meeting. Ayes: Furlong, Watkins, Kelly and Sorensen. Nay: Howard.

Project Manager Stu Willits updated the Board on the progress with the Muscatine County Jail Expansion and Remodel Project. Howard questioned that no one noticed that the insulation of the geothermal piping had not been bid. Willits stated that they are currently only .75% over bid at this point and would generally set aside 3-5% for change orders. Furlong stated that Willits has done a good job keeping change orders down on this project. On a motion by Kelly, second by Howard, Muscatine County Jail Expansion and Remodel Project Change Order #004 was approved in the amount of \$26,651.06 for a total project cost of \$6,923,466.40. Ayes: All.

Discussion was held with County Recorder Cindy Gray regarding new regulations for passports and a Recorder's indexing program. Gray stated that passport services is mandating some new rules that may make it difficult to keep passport issuance in her office. Gray stated that they will have to segregate passport services and certain employees can only work on passports. Gray stated that she is going to try having two employees issue passports and two handle vitals. Gray stated that the Recorder's Indexing program has not been modernized since 1989 and she is looking at two different vendors that offer indexing program and accounts receivable programs. Gray stated that with the new program, Indexing Accounts Receivable and Scanning will all be handled by one vendor. Gray stated that the initial cost is anywhere from \$60,000-\$70,000 of which she currently has \$20,000 of document dollars available, but that at least one of the vendors would allow payment over a few years. Gray stated that Information Services Director Bill Riley has included this in his funding for FY11/12. Watkins stated that the Board will discuss the new program during the budget process.

On a motion by Howard, second by Sorensen, the Board approved Resolution #01-03-11-01 Authorizing the County Engineer to Sign For and Collect Disaster Relief Funds. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

On a motion by Howard, second by Kelly, the Board approved Resolution #01-03-11-02 Authorizing the County Engineer to Execute Certification of Completion and Final Acceptance on Farm-to-Market Construction Projects. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

On a motion by Furlong, second by Sorensen, the Board approved Resolution #01-03-11-03 Authorizing the County Engineer to Close Secondary Roads in Emergency Situations. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

On a motion by Furlong, second by Sorensen, the Board approved Resolution #01-03-11-04 Designating Official Newspapers In and For Muscatine County for 2011. Roll call vote: Ayes: All. They are as follows: Muscatine Journal, West Liberty Index and Wilton-Durant Advocate.

On a motion by Furlong, second by Kelly, the Board approved Resolution #01-03-11-05 Construction Evaluation Resolution. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

On a motion by Furlong, second by Sorensen, the Board approved a Class C Beer and Liquor Permit for Salvatore Vitale, dba The Sicilian, 1963 Tipton Road North, Muscatine, Iowa, 52761. Ayes: All

On a motion by Furlong, second by Kelly, minutes of the Monday, December 27, 2010 regular meeting were approved as amended. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

The Board received a memo from County Attorney Alan Ostergren regarding procedures for requests for legal advice from the Attorney's Office.

The Board received a letter from IMWCA regarding the County's loss ratio and related high risk categorization for the next fiscal year resulting in loss of discounts and the attached response from the County regarding efforts to improve safety and requesting reconsideration.

Committee Reports:

Watkins attended a Region IX Transportation meeting December 28th.

Discussion was held regarding meeting dates and time for 2011. Kelly stated she would like the 5th Monday to also be a night meeting. Watkins stated that having the 5th Monday is more confusing because there are only a handful of 5th Mondays during the year. Furlong stated the Board has always been willing to schedule an additional night meeting as needed. On a motion by Furlong, second by Howard, the Board set meeting dates and times for 2011 as follows: the 4th Monday of every month at 7:00 P.M., all other Mondays at 9:00 A.M. Ayes: All.

Discussion and action approving Board of Supervisor appointments to Board and Commissions for 2011 was postponed until next Monday.

On a motion by Furlong, second by Kelly, the Board approved Resolution #01-01-06 Appointing David Watkins and Thomas Furlong as Muscatine County Representatives to the Muscatine County Joint Communications Commission. Ayes: Furlong, Howard, Kelly and Sorensen. Watkins abstained.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Howard, the Board approved the draft of a Memorandum of Understanding between Muscatine County and the Muscatine Humane

Society as presented by staff and directed it be sent to the Muscatine Humane Society for their consideration. Ayes: All.

The Board reviewed FY11/12 funding requests from outside agencies as follows:

Muscatine Search & Rescue – Sheriff Dave White	
FY10/11 Allocation \$0	FY11/12 Request \$5,500
Trinity – Community Nursing Subsidy – Mary O’Dell and Jane Caes	
FY10/11 Allocation \$166,919	FY11/12 Request \$175,704
Y-Family Program Services (Young Moms) – Bret Olson and Diana Broderson	
FY10/11 Allocation \$12,000	FY11/12 Request \$19,000
MCSA Case Coordinator – Dan Ramsay	
FY10/11 Allocation \$24,348	FY11/12 Request \$24,348
MCSA Shelter Subsidy – Dan Ramsay	
FY10/11 Allocation \$25,029	FY11/12 Request \$25,029
Muscatine Legal Services – Jean Pfeiffer	
FY10/11 Allocation \$19,570	FY11/12 Request \$19,500

The Board recessed at 11:13 A.M. and reconvened at 1:00 P.M. to hear budget requests for FY11/12 from outside agencies with Furlong, Howard, Watkins, Kelly and Sorensen present.

River Bend Transit – Randy Zobrist	
FY10/11 Allocation \$6,983	FY11/12 Request \$7,192
Senior Resources – Barb Krall, Diana Grader, Ann Carroll, Allison Castle and Harvey Allbee Jr.	
FY10/11 Allocation \$38,601	FY11/12 Request \$44,606
Greater Muscatine Chamber of Commerce and Industry – Greg Jenkins	
FY10/11 Allocation \$13,000	FY11/12 Request \$15,000
Wilton Development Corporation – Jackie Barten	
FY10/11 Allocation \$3,000	FY11/12 Request \$3,000
WELEAD (West Liberty Development) – Karen Lathrop	
FY10/11 Allocation \$3,000	FY11/12 Request \$3,000
Muscatine County Fair Board – Lori Gosenberg	
FY10/11 Allocation \$25,000	FY11/12 Request \$25,000
Muscatine Convention and Visitor’s Bureau – Heather Shoppa	
FY10/11 Allocation \$2,500	FY11/12 Request \$5,000
Wilton Library – Sharon Bowers	
FY10/11 Allocation \$12,721	FY11/12 Request \$14,000
West Liberty Library – Jeanette McMahon	
FY10/11 Allocation \$12,721	FY11/12 Request \$12,721
Musser Public Library – Pam Collins	
FY10/11 Allocation \$102,723	FY11/12 Request \$102,723

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 P.M.

ATTEST:

Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

David H. Watkins, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors