

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors  
Monday, January 10, 2011

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

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

On a motion by Kelly, second by Furlong, claims dated January 10, 2011 were approved in the amount of \$1,338,293.30. Ayes: All.

The Board reviewed variances granted by the Muscatine County Board of Adjustment on Wednesday, January 5, 2011. Case #11-01-01 is an application filed by Steven J. Tomfeld and Pamela K. Cox, Record Owners. This property is located in Cedar Township, Cranston, Lots 1-4 & 12-16, Block 2, 2495 Freedom Circle, Letts, Iowa, in the SE ¼ of Sec. 13-T76N-R4W, containing approximately 1.04 acres, and is zoned R-2 Residential District. This request, if approved, would allow the Zoning Administrator to issue a Variance in order for the homeowners to build an addition onto their dwelling, eliminating the front yard setback. On a motion by Furlong, second by Howard, the Board accepted the variance. Ayes: All. Case #11-01-02 is an application filed by Frank M. or Yvonne M. Holcomb and Holcomb Farms, Inc., Record Owners. This property is located in Pike Township, 2070 Elder Avenue, Nichols, Iowa, in parts of the SW ¼ of Sec. 26-T77N-R4W, West of Elder Avenue, and is zoned A-1 Agricultural District. This request, if approved, would allow the Zoning Administrator to issue a Variance for a subdivision waiver in order for the property owners to split a parcel surrounding their residence, which would make three parcels. On a motion by Kelly, second by Furlong, the Board accepted the variance. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Sorensen, the Chairperson was authorized to sign Applications to the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy Council to be Certified to Carry Weapons for Reserve Officer Mark Clark. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Furlong, second by Sorensen, the Board approved the Muscatine County Civil Department's Report of Fees Collected for the quarter ending December 31, 2010 in the amount of \$31,550.04. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Furlong, second by Kelly, the Board approved the Muscatine County Recorder's Report of Fees Collected for the quarter ending December 31, 2010 in the amount of \$73,530.86. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Furlong, the Board approved the Muscatine County Auditor's Report of Fees Collected for the quarter ending December 31, 2010 in the amount of \$1,827.43. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Furlong, second by Kelly, the Board approved the Muscatine County Treasurer's Report of Fees Collected for the quarter ending December 31, 2010 in the amount of \$102,514.89. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Furlong, second by Sorensen, the Board approved the Muscatine County Treasurer's Semi Annual Report for July 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Furlong, the Board re-appointed Bruce Bryant as the Muscatine County Weed Commissioner for a one-year term ending December 31, 2011. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Furlong, the Board re-appointed Heather Shoppa as the Eastern Iowa Tourism Association representative and Jane Daufeldt as the alternate for one-year terms ending December 31, 2011. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Sorensen, the Board approved the re-appointment of Dr. Mark Odell as the Muscatine County Medical Examiner for a two-year term ending December 31, 2012 along with the following designated Deputy Medical Examiners/Medical Examiner Investigators for two-year terms ending December 31, 2012: David Gierlus, D.O., Collette Hostetler, M.D., James Kvirant, M.D., Manasi Nadkarni, M.D., Steven Paulsrud, D.O., Hamad Sagha, M.D., Ashley Schmieg, D.O., Matthew Sojka, M.D., Melinda Smith, M.D. and Robert Weis, M.D.; Medical Examiner Investigators Bill Wilson, Thomas Summitt, Darren Brooke, Kevin Guck, Rick Sywassink and C.J. Ryan. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Furlong, second by Sorensen, the Board re-appointed Jenny Paetz to the Muscatine County Conservation Board for a five-year term ending December 31, 2015. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Furlong, the Board re-appointed Frances Nelson and Jim Wester to the Muscatine County Board of Health for three year terms ending December 31, 2013. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Furlong, second by Kelly, the Board re-appointed Jerry Murphy to the Conesville Benefitted Fire District for a three-year term ending December 31, 2013 subject to approval by the Louisa County Board of Supervisors. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Sorensen, the Board reappointed Michael Curtis to the Community Action of Eastern Iowa for a two-year term ending December 31, 2012. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kelly, the Board re-appointed Jeff Hackett to the Muscatine County Building Board of Appeals for a three-year term ending December 31, 2013. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Furlong, second by Kelly, minutes of the Monday, January 3, 2011 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

- Letter from Muscatine County Solid Waste Management Agency regarding appointment of a representative.
- Memo from Muscatine County Solid Waste Management regarding March 2011 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Update.
- Notice of approved settlement agreement between Gerdau Ameristeel, Inc and Muscatine County Board of Review.
- Howard reported phone calls regarding upcoming budget discussions.
- Howard reported a phone call regarding lighting near the courthouse.
- Howard received a call suggesting a hold on hiring at the County Attorney's Office.
- Howard received a question about how to get appointed to boards and commissions.

Committee Reports:

Kelly attended a Muscatine Community Health Association meeting January 5<sup>th</sup>.

County Auditor Leslie Soule discussed lighting around the Courthouse and the flags. Soule will contact Nelson Electric to see if lighting just the flags, rather than the entire Courthouse, would be less cost prohibitive.

The Board approved on motion by Furlong, second by Howard, 2011 appointments to the following boards and commissions: Ayes: All.

Bi-State Regional Planning Commission	Watkins & Kelly
Bi-State Drug and Alcohol Consortium	Kelly
City of Muscatine Transportation Zone Commission	Sorensen
Community Volunteer Nominating Committee	Kelly
Decategorization Board	Kelly
Greater Muscatine Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Watkins
Regional Workforce Investment Board	Sorensen
Muscatine Community Health Association	Kelly
Muscatine County Board of Health	Watkins
Muscatine County Conservation Board	Howard
Muscatine County E911 Service Board	Howard
Muscatine County Enterprise Zone Commission	Furlong
Muscatine County Fair Board	Furlong
Muscatine County Flood Control Commission	Howard & Sorensen
Muscatine County Humane Society	Watkins
Muscatine County/Muscatine City Joint Administration Board (Emergency Management)	Howard
Muscatine County REAP Commission	Howard
Muscatine County Revolving Loan Fund Finance Committee	Watkins

Muscatine County Safety Committee	Sorensen
Muscatine County Solid Waste Mgmt. Agency	Furlong
Region 9 Transportation Policy Board	Watkins
Seventh Judicial District Dept. of Correctional Services Board	Kelly
WELEAD(West Liberty Economic Development Board)	Furlong
Wilton Development Corporation	Sorensen
Muscatine County Joint Communications Commission (standing appointment until Board resolution to change)	Furlong & Watkins
RC&D Council (2 year terms)	Howard – term ends 12/31/11 Weiss – term ends 12/31/11
M.A.G.I.C. Committee (2 year terms)	Kelly – term ends 12/31/11 Howard – term ends 12/31/12
River Bend Transit Board of Directors (2 year term)	Shoultz – term ends 6/30/11
Bi-State Regional Trail Committee	Vacant
Muscatine River Project Partnership (BOS member or BOS appointee)	Shoultz
Muscatine County Infrastructure Committee	Furlong & Sorensen

On a motion by Kelly, second by Furlong, the Board accepted the December 2010 payroll claims. Ayes: All.

The Board reviewed the health/dental fund balance as of December 31, 2010.

The Board reviewed estimated fund balances with Budget Coordinator Sherry Seright. Seright stated that taxable valuation increased about 3% which would require reducing budget requests in the general fund by about \$214,000 in order to maintain a balanced budget and maintain a general fund reserve of approximately 18-19%.

The Board observed a moment of silence at 10:00 A.M. for the victims that were tragically killed and injured in shootings in Arizona on Saturday.

Seright continued discussion with the Board regarding estimated fund balances. Seright stated that Mental Health is locked into a dollar amount and will reduce by four cents per thousand and General Supplemental should hold its own at the current levy rate. Seright stated that Rural Services is the area where the Board should focus its attention this year as the fund balance with a reserve of 4% does not allow for any emergencies.

Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber reported to the Board that a 2% adjustment in the salary scale plus steps has been included in every department's budget as a starting point for Board consideration.

Conservation Director Curt Weiss reviewed the FY11/12 budget request for Conservation stating dues and memberships are increasing \$1,000 due to an increase in the Iowa County Conservation Association dues and \$6,000 in order to transfer more money to the reserve fund used to purchase equipment. Weiss stated that he currently has \$7,000 in the reserve fund plus the FY2011 transfer of \$4,000 for a total of \$11,000 which will pay for

the John Deere Mower he wants to replace this year, but will leave very little in the fund for future purchases. Budget Coordinator Sherry Seright stated that the overall Conservation operating budget would increase about 3%.

Information Services Director Bill Riley reviewed the FY11/12 budget request for the Information Services department stating that he has budgeted for significant increases in software due to requests from the Recorder and Community Services. Riley stated that about \$10,000 of the service agreement line is for a fire pass service remote access security plan. Watkins stated that he feels that could be put off another year. Riley noted a major increase with new equipment due to desktop virtualization discussed at a prior in-depth session with the Board. Riley stated that desktop virtualization would allow for use of thin clients and have the capability of running hardware longer. Riley stated the cost of \$152,066 would replace 70 units with thin clients, but would be reduced to \$120,566 if the units were not replaced with thin clients. Riley stated that another alternate would be to replace 20 units at this time at a cost of \$98,588. Sorensen stated that his experience is that a thin client is a great idea that rarely works and he would like to see some more research done before agreeing to the proposal. Sorensen asked what portion of his request is actual operating budget. Riley stated that he is looking at replacing the current T1 line with a wireless connection to give the Engineer and Zoning better access to the GIS system. Riley stated he has talked to other counties who have been moving to desktop virtualization, including a county with 5 years of experience with desktop virtualization, and they have been pleased. Howard stated this looks more like a wish list than a budget. Riley stated that he included the numbers because he was asked to and that \$59,000 is what is needed to maintain status quo with the current equipment. Riley stated that the server replacement is for the County Attorney server that was originally purchased through a grant. Seright stated that she has an issue with the County paying for the replacement of the server because at the time it was purchased, the County Attorney stated there would be no cost to the County. Riley stated that the County Attorney's office uses that server for all of their files and it is their only server. Sorensen stated that the equipment requested by the Information Services Director is a big part of the shortage to the General Fund. Seright stated that the equipment could also be funded through debt service. Watkins stated that he would like to see the payback for the desktop virtualization. The Board will have further discussion on desktop virtualization at a future meeting. Recorder Cindy Gray stated that \$70,000 of the software increase is to modernize the accounts receivable, indexing and scanning programs that have not been updated since 1989 in her office. Seright stated that when the Board upgraded the financial software, the Recorder's office was not upgraded at that time. Gray stated that she is currently unhappy with the service of the current provider, Tyler, and she prefers the program marketed by Fidler. Gray stated that the new system would give the Auditor and Assessor what they want without giving them access to the Recorder's files. Gray stated that Clinton County has switched to this program and they have had no problems. Gray proposed that she pay \$20,000 from her document managing fees to pay for a portion of the software. Seright stated that the other departments were not asked to pay for their upgrade out of their budgets. Watkins stated that the Recorder's Office gets fee revenue and the others do not, but Gray disagreed with that statement. Community Services Director Mike Johannsen stated that about \$8,000 of the software increase is for

a new trust program to replace one that will no longer be supported by the person from whom it was purchased.

County Recorder Cindy Gray reviewed the FY11/12 budget request for the Recorder's Office stating that the only thing she has raised is the \$20,000 in document management. Gray stated that the only cost to the new laws associated with passports might be putting a lock on the back room and moving the mail room because all passport records have to be kept separate from vital records. Gray stated that she does not want to see the Board remove the new Recorders program from the IT budget.

The Board recessed at 11:10 A.M. and reconvened at 11:13 A.M. with Furlong, Howard, Watkins, Kelly and Sorensen present.

County Auditor Leslie Soule reviewed the FY11/12 budget request for Auditor and Elections stating that she has increased the equipment maintenance line to reflect higher costs, but lowered supplies and election officials to keep from raising the budget. Soule stated that it may be difficult to stay within this budget with three regularly scheduled elections in FY2012 as well as a possibly large mailing due to redistricting, but that she will try to get by. Soule stated that the newest technology which is gaining in popularity in Iowa is the Precinct Atlas Electronic Pollbook of which at least half the counties have already implemented. Soule stated that she prefers to wait until FY2013 before considering introducing the electronic pollbook in Muscatine County for the following reasons: the cost of \$75,000 - \$100,000 is prohibitive in the current economy; she wants to be sure that the electronic pollbook is here to stay; and the best time for training and implementation is right after a major General Election with phasing in done during the school and city elections.

County Auditor Leslie Soule reviewed the FY11/12 budget request for General Services stating that she basically rearranged the current dollars between lines in order to maintain the current budget and better reflect actual expenditures. Soule stated that she had to include additional funding for Simplex to perform internal check valve and obstruction inspections at DHS and the Administration buildings which are required every 5 years. Soule requested a third maintenance worker with the opening of the new pod at the Jail. Soule asked the Board to replace a lawn mower under the current budget with the purchase of a snow blade for that mower in the FY2012 budget. The Board wants a maintenance position discussion on Wednesday's agenda and asked that Project Manager Stu Willits attend to help the Board with determining how to proceed. Soule reported to the Board that the elevator preventive maintenance contracts are about to expire and was directed to go out for bids on new elevator contracts.

Furlong left the meeting at 11:30 A.M.

County Treasurer Jerry Coffman reviewed the FY11/12 budget request for the Treasurer's Office stating that increases in postage are due to anticipated rate increases and increased postage due to new plates being mailed out.

The Board recessed at 11:43 A.M. and reconvened at 1:00 P.M. with Furlong, Howard, Watkins, Kelly and Sorensen present.

Sheriff Dave White reviewed the FY11/12 budget request for the Sheriff's Office and Jail stating that the only major change is that they normally replace three cars a year, but last year only did two because of the budget crisis, so he budgeted for three this year. Watkins and Furlong feel that Courthouse security could be handled differently than a full-time employee. White stated that they will be having an opening on the road soon that would allow for the current employee to return to the road so that the Board could try a new scenario. White stated that worse case scenario is that he can't find any part-time personnel to work in the courthouse. Watkins stated he would want former law enforcement personnel. The Board will continue to consider how to handle courthouse security at a future meeting. White stated that he must convert all radio equipment to narrowband technology by January 1, 2013 and he is gradually converting their equipment as new cars are brought into service. White stated that jail expansion revenue is a conservative estimate that will cover the bond payment and extra expenses associated with operating the new pod. White reported that he feels the service from Advanced Healthcare has been worth the expense. White stated he is planning an open house one week prior to opening the new jail pod.

Community Services Director Mike Johannsen reviewed FY11/12 budget requests for General Assistance, Veterans Affairs and Mental Health. Johannsen stated that in General Assistance they are putting more emphasis on gas utility assistance as they will not get as much federal assistance in the future. Johannsen stated his budget reflects moving back to a pre-budget crisis rate on utility and rental assistance. Johannsen stated that training is an issue for Veterans Affairs because there are specific requirements and he would like to get one more person trained to provide for cross training. Johannsen explained that the line for a transport van lease of \$1,935 is for a van that will take the veterans to the VA Hospital. Johannsen stated he included grave markers in the Veterans Affairs budget just in case there is no help from local organizations, but he will not spend this money if other organizations supply the funding. Johannsen projected Mental Health total expenditures at \$5,247,687. Johannsen stated he does not know if the \$4,812,401 projected for revenue is a good number based on new officials taking office this month. Johannsen projected an ending Mental Health fund balance of only 7%. Johannsen stated that worst case scenario is that Special Olympics and Crossroads may have to be funded through something other than Mental Health or be cut. Johannsen stated that they budgeted for a car to be replaced under case management that will be reimbursed over a five year period.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:39 P.M.

ATTEST:

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Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

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David H. Watkins, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors  
Wednesday, January 12, 2011

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

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

The Board held an interview with Jim Hanks, Ahler & Cooney, P.C. for union negotiation services for Muscatine County.

The Board held an interview with Paul Greufe, P.J. Greufe & Associates, for union negotiation services for Muscatine County.

The Board recessed at 9:54 A.M. and reconvened at 9:58 A.M. with Furlong, Howard, Watkins, Kelly and Sorensen present.

The Board held an interview with Bill Sueppel, Meardon, Sueppel & Downer P.L.C., for union negotiation services for Muscatine County.

The Board discussed the three interviews with Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber and County Engineer Keith White.

The Board reviewed the FY11/12 Department of Human Services budget request of \$76,040. DHS Business Manager Felicia Toppert stated that the current reimbursement rate is about 34%. Toppert stated that DHS reorganized last year from 8 service areas to 6 service areas and moved to a paperless system which will reduce postage and allows for services to be applied for and maintained electronically. Watkins stated that Cedar and Louisa Counties should pay for their share of the budget as Muscatine County taxpayers should not have to support their offices. Toppert stated that there are part-time offices in those counties for which those counties are providing financial support. Toppert further stated that Scott County has taken responsibility for scanning paperwork from all counties without charging those counties for that service.

Zoning Administrator Jeremy Underwood reviewed the FY11/12 budget request for Zoning/Environmental Services stating that the flood recovery is coming to an end this year and his only increase is for the Information Services reimbursement and salary increases. At some point Underwood would like to see Ordinance revision put back in the budget, but he does not feel it is feasible at this time. Watkins would like to see expenses tracked for inspections in order to insure that fees charged for permits are covering expenses.

Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber reviewed the FY11/12 budget request for Administration and Board of Supervisors stating increases are based on actual expenses incurred for publications and copier maintenance. Schreiber stated there has been a savings in postage by emailing Board of Supervisor packets. Watkins stated that he would like to see an Ordinance passed that would allow the County to receive the tax charged to county residents for MP&W Cable.

The Board reviewed the FY11/12 budget requests for Court Services and Nondepartmental with Budget Coordinator Sherry Seright and Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber. Board consensus was for Seright to reassign animal control to rural services with a budgeted amount of \$4,000.

The Board recessed at 12:01 P.M. and reconvened at 1:00 P.M. with Furlong, Howard, Watkins, Kelly and Sorensen present.

Medical Examiner Investigator Tom Summitt reviewed the FY11/12 budget request for Medical Examiner stating that he requested an increase in training for a follow up course in St. Louis and investigations as there have been more cases to investigate over the last few years.

County Engineer Keith White reviewed the FY11/12 budget request for Secondary Roads stating that by the time budget time rolls around, he knows what projects are classified as a bridge or a culvert, hence the swings each year on the budget between the two budget lines. White discussed the portion of the Five Year Construction Program scheduled to be completed during FY11/12. Furlong stated that he felt the Iron City Avenue bridge replacement could be held off for another year since there is no federal funding for that bridge. White requested he be allowed to replace two snow plows, one motor grader and a brush chipper at a total budgeted cost of \$595,000. Watkins asked Budget Coordinator Sherry Seright to provide the revenue that would be generated in twenty-five cent incremental increases to the Rural Services levy.

Discussion was held regarding staffing needs for maintenance of County-owned buildings. Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber provided the Board with the former Maintenance Supervisor job classification as a starting point for discussion on a new job classification. Project Manager Stu Willits stated that maintenance needs a person who works, not another boss. Willits further stated the person hired should have the boiler skills, plumbing skills, and computer skills of someone from an organization like Northwest Mechanical. Willits stated he would beware of hiring a supervisor because maintenance needs an individual who is going to do the work, not just supervise. Willits stated that they have a lot of buildings and equipment to cover and need a worker, so let someone else hold the purse strings. Willits stated that it has worked fine having the Auditor handle the financial end. Willits stated they should hire someone that is used to working, but likes to have someone to answer to. Watkins asked if it is better to hire two people and get rid of the HVAC preventive maintenance contract. Willits stated maybe, if the person hired is from one of those companies. Willits stated he would think long and hard about the supervisory thing, as too many supervisors just direct. Willits stated the County has two guys with a lot of experience, so do not hire someone that is going to ruin that. Kelly stated that she is sensing that Willits is saying they should hire a person who can work and give direction, but still report to the County Auditor's office. Willits stated the work orders could go directly to a maintenance person in the Jail to be given out. County Auditor Leslie Soule stated that work orders are being sent directly to the maintenance employees by email with the Auditor's Office copied for slight oversight, just to see that they get done in a timely manner. Willits stated maintenance gets bombarded and needs help. Soule stated that whatever the Board decides, she needs election setup to stay with the maintenance staff.

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The meeting was adjourned at 3:37 P.M.

ATTEST:

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Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

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David H. Watkins, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors  
Monday, January 17, 2011

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

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

Charles Lorensen, 1808 Briarwood Lane, Muscatine, commented on atrocious snow removal in the City of Davenport and by the State of Iowa on Hwy 61. Lorensen also stated he feels the County and City have a responsibility to keep costs down by lowering thermostats and asking employees to wear warmer clothes rather than allowing them to use space heaters under their desks.

On a motion by Furlong, second by Kelly, a claim dated January 17, 2011 was approved in the amount of \$895.58. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Howard, the Board approved a contract with the US Army Corps of Engineers for patrol services at Clark's Ferry and Shady Creek Recreation Areas. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Furlong, second by Howard, the Board approved a class specification and grade 3 for a Jail Receptionist position. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Furlong, the Sheriff's Department - Jail was authorized to fill a part-time Jail Receptionist position and a part-time Jail Cook position. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Furlong, the Board amended the Jail Commissary Expenditure Policy to add wages and benefits for a part-time Jail Cook position as an appropriate expenditure from that fund. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Furlong, second by Sorensen, the County Engineer was authorized to fill a vacant Motor Grader position. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Furlong, Community Services was authorized to fill a vacant Case Manager position. Ayes: All.

Discussion was held regarding a staffing request from the County Attorney's Office. County Attorney Alan Ostergren stated that he senses there is no consensus about adding the 1.6 positions he requested, so he is suggesting that he be allowed to add one full-time assistant county attorney with experience above entry level. Ostergren stated that his concern is that if he does not have enough prosecutors, he may displace paying federal inmates with more local inmates due to more settled cases as he may not have time to prosecute them to their fullest. Kelly stated that the Attorney's Office will have the same number of prosecuting attorneys as before. Ostergren stated that he would be replacing a very experienced attorney with one that has far less experience who will not be as efficient. Howard asked Ostergren what his case load

is that supports he is understaffed. Ostergren stated that his office usually handles approximately 1400 indictable offenses a year or around 27 per week which means that if 27 cases come in, then 27 cases better go out or the system backs up. Ostergren stated he will file every case and do the best he can. Howard asked how many cases he can actually handle. Ostergren stated it is hard to say and depends on the case as some take a lot of time while others do not. Ostergren stated that being understaffed will be a disservice to crime victims as they will not have time to contact victims about what's going on to keep them informed. Howard again asked Ostergren how many can the Attorney's Office handle. Ostergren stated they will handle them all, but they will not be able to spend the time they want to on each case. Ostergren stated that all counties the size of Muscatine County have more support staff. Howard asked if the court system could handle the cases if Ostergren had the staffing he wanted. Ostergren stated that they could because they would do more within the community that would not directly involve the court system, for example dealing with truancy. Ostergren stated he currently has a truancy case involving a kindergartener, first grader and second grader that have missed more than half the school days this year. Ostergren stated he will be back if they are having cases dismissed because of not being able to give them a speedy trial. Ostergren stated that Blackhawk and Scott Counties are using a new state law for driver licenses suspended for nonpayment of fines that allows individuals placed on a payment schedule to get their license back and still gets the fines paid. Ostergren stated that Blackhawk County is three times the size of Muscatine County and has 4 full time support staff that collect fines, court costs, victim restitution and sheriff room and board fees totaling \$1,600,000 a year which supplies their General Fund with \$800,000 of additional funding a year and Ostergren believes Muscatine County could realize about 1/3 of that with one additional support person. Watkins stated he is glad Ostergren is looking at the Blackhawk County program. Sheriff Dave White stated that in talking to agents and other county attorneys, the Muscatine County Attorney's Office has a reputation of working much harder than other counties and do everything they can to get the maximum sentence. White encouraged the Board of Supervisors to work with Ostergren as his original proposal was a great proposal and every time he has to plea bargain and put local inmates in the Muscatine County Jail it will cost the County revenue. Watkins suggested hiring an outside person to handle a few cases until someone can be hired. Ostergren stated he feels it would be easier to get someone on board quickly rather than gather information to give a case to someone outside. On a motion by Furlong, second by Kelly, the County Attorney was authorized to fill a full-time Assistant County Attorney position. Ayes: All.

County Attorney Alan Ostergren reviewed the FY11/12 budget request for County Attorney stating that he shifted money from reference education materials to depositions because he is trying to find a cheaper provider for electronic reference services and the depositions line is where the money is needed. Ostergren stated he has not expended any forfeiture funds yet and has no immediate concrete plan to spend any at this time. Watkins asked about the server replacement requested for the Attorney's Office through the Information Services Budget. Ostergren stated that they have software called Pro Law and the next step is electronic filing with the courts, so it is vital for them to be ready for that next step. Budget Coordinator Sherry Seright stated that the server supports the whole County Attorney's office.

MUSCOM Manager Lorrie Lacina reviewed the FY11/12 budget request for MUSCOM stating that the capital equipment reserve was reduced \$10,000 and she has had to increase service agreements and the state terminal rental through the state because of the new computers in the squads and the increase in activity on the state terminal. Board consensus was to accept the MUSCOM budget as presented.

GIS Manager Mark Warren reviewed the FY11/12 budget request for MAGIC stating that the overall trend has been to keep costs low and not ask for any big increases from the county share. Warren stated that he does not charge for mapping that benefits certain partners, so if MP&W or Muscatine County or the City of Muscatine needs a particular mapping done, MAGIC pays for it. Warren stated the GIS system will never pay for itself unless you charge everyone to use it. Warren stated that the budget increases are for personnel increases and minor inflation on the operational budget. Warren stated that the MAGIC Board agreed to add a summer intern to work on mapping easements. Warren invited the new Board members to an orientation on January 25<sup>th</sup>.

Discussion was held with County Auditor Leslie Soule regarding lighting the Courthouse and Administration Building flagpoles. Soule presented two options: Option 1-replaces all of the Courthouse lighting and adds lighting to light the Courthouse and Administration Building flag poles at a cost of \$15,120 - \$16,800; Option 2-replaces the Courthouse roof lights, adds a light to the courthouse roof to direct at the flag in the yard and add lights to illuminate the Administration Building flags at a cost of \$4,500 - \$5,000. Kelly stated that she feels they need to proceed, but she feels that if staff can not take the flags down every night, then the flags need to be taken down until the lights have been repaired. Watkins stated he feels the flags need to stay up as there are other public buildings in town that do not have their flags lit and all public buildings are supposed to have flags flying. Board consensus was to leave the flags up. On a motion by Kelly, second by Furlong, the Board authorized County Auditor Leslie Soule to proceed with Option 2 to light the Courthouse and Administration Building flagpoles at a cost not to exceed \$5,000. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Furlong, minutes of the Monday, October 10, 2011 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

**Correspondence:**

Watkins and Furlong received phone calls concerning the County Attorney position.

**Committee Reports:**

Furlong and Watkins attended a MUSCOM meeting January 13<sup>th</sup>.

Howard and Kelly attended a MAGIC meeting January 10<sup>th</sup>.

Kelly attended a Seventh Judicial District meeting January 14<sup>th</sup>.

Watkins stated that the Muscatine County Humane Society has rejected the contract with Muscatine County, so deputies will be taking animals in as any other individual and there will no longer be a Supervisor on that Board.

Discussion was held regarding the hiring of outside legal counsel to handle union negotiations. Board consensus was that all three applicants did an excellent job. Furlong and Howard would prefer hiring Jim Hanks. Kelly preferred hiring Bill Sueppel because he cost less and was already handling the Assistant County Prosecutor's union. On a motion by Furlong, second by Howard, the Board selected Jim Hanks from the firm of Ahlers & Cooney, P.C. to provide union negotiation services to Muscatine County for the Secondary Roads, Correctional and Sheriff's Deputies unions and Bill Sueppel from the firm of Meardon, Sueppel & Downer, P.L.C. for the Assistant County Prosecutor's union. Ayes: Furlong, Howard, Watkins and Sorensen. Nay: Kelly

Discussion was held regarding a vacancy on the Community Action of Eastern Iowa Board of Directors. Schreiber stated that the person appointed turned it down and she needs direction on filling the vacancy. Board consensus was to put it out to the staff to see if anyone is interested and if not, put it on the website for volunteers. Watkins stated that Board members may also direct interested individuals to contact Schreiber.

The Board recessed at 10:30 A.M. and reconvened at 10:39 A.M. with Furlong, Howard, Watkins, Kelly and Sorensen present.

The Board held ongoing FY11/12 budget deliberations. Budget Coordinator Sherry Seright reviewed fund summaries developed based on the proposed FY11/12 budget. Seright stated that the General Basic Fund will decrease \$175,545 with the budget as proposed, but if the desktop virtualization project of \$150,000 were removed, the levy rate probably would not increase. Seright stated that the General Supplemental Fund balance shows an increase of \$145,258, but does not include the budget increase for MUSCOM that the board approved this morning and does not cover any increases to health insurance costs. Seright stated that the MH/DD Fund will see a levy rate decrease of 4 cents because of the dollar amount locked in that the County is allowed to levy for MH/DD. Seright presented two options for the Rural Services Fund: Option 1 maintains the current levy rate and would reduce the Rural Services Fund balance to \$104,663 (6%) and the Secondary Roads Fund balance to \$226,851 (4%); Option 2 raises the levy rate by \$1.00 and would increase the Rural Services Fund balance to 115,559 (5%) and the Secondary Roads Fund balance to \$876,851 (14%). Seright stated that the Debt Service Fund levy rate will decrease 18 cents per thousand due to the payoff of the Administration Building debt. Seright stated that FY12/13 will see a 38.5 cent decrease to the Debt Service levy rate due to the payoff of the Jail bonds and would be the time to consider desktop virtualization. Watkins stated he does not want to raise taxes to bond for maintenance of buildings. Sorensen stated he would like to see an amount set for capital expenditures to do projects to maintain buildings and he does not care if it is bonded or budgeted somewhere, but feels it should be included in the levy rate.

Discussion was held regarding funding of the libraries. Watkins stated the libraries should be kept at the FY10/11 funding level which means reducing Wilton Public Library's request to \$12,721. Kelly stated that the libraries are not functioning well at the lower level of funding because they are cutting services. On a motion by Watkins, second by Howard, the Board approved FY11/12 funding for the libraries as follows: Wilton Public Library - \$12,721, Wilton Public Library - \$12,721 and Musser Public Library - \$102,783. Ayes: All.

Discussion was held regarding capital purchases for the Secondary Roads department and Board consensus was to leave the \$595,000 budgeted for Secondary Roads capital purchases in the budget.

Discussion was held regarding the Rural Services levy rate with Furlong stating that he would support a 25 cent increase to the levy rate, transferring \$200,000 more to Secondary Roads and removing the Iron City Avenue bridge project from the budget for a year. Watkins stated that the bridge should at least be removed to help with the flooding issue. Sorensen stated they should probably consider abandoning some roads to cut maintenance costs. Furlong stated they could remove the bridge this year to solve the flooding issue and later decide whether or not to replace it. Howard stated he does not want to remove the bridge until they are ready to replace it. White suggested the Iron City Avenue bridge project enter the 5 Year Program and then once in the program, it moves forward at the will of the Board and DOT likes to see a five year plan. White stated that the typical life of a project in the five year program is usually seven or eight years. Furlong agreed. Kelly asked about putting a large culvert in next to the bridge as proposed by Herman Baker. White stated that putting a culvert of any size does not hydraulically solve much and is not a viable option. Sorensen stated that the County needs a 5 or 10 year funding plan to go along with the 5 year road plan. A motion was made by Furlong, seconded by Howard, to raise the rural services levy 25 cents. Discussion ensued with Watkins stating that the levy probably needs to raise 50 cents which would raise county taxpayers approximately 34 cents. Sorensen suggested moving the capital purchase for Secondary Roads to Debt Service. Watkins stated that only county taxpayers pay for the maintenance of county roads. Seright stated that borrowing \$500,000 would cost approximately 6 cents per thousand of taxable value. Furlong and Howard withdrew their motions to increase the levy 25 cents. The Board directed Budget Coordinator Sherry Seright to put together options for a 25, 35 and 50 cent increase to the rural services levy, withdraw desktop virtualization and Recorder computer software from the budget, and include \$500,000 of debt for capital improvements. Sorensen stated he feels that some of the secondary roads equipment should be paid for by everyone, not just rural services as even residents of the city use the county roads.

The Board recessed at 11:51 A.M. and reconvened at 1:00 P.M. with Furlong, Howard, Watkins, Kelly and Sorensen present.

Discussion was held regarding outside agencies. Board consensus was to fund outside agencies as follows: EMS-Mileage for Training - \$1,158; Search & Rescue - \$5,500; Trinity-Community Nursing Subsidy - \$175,704; Y-Family Program Services - \$12,000; MCSA Case Coordinator - \$24,348; MCSA Shelter Subsidy - \$25,029; Muscatine Legal Services - \$19,500; River Bend Transit - \$7,000; Senior Resources - \$38,601; Greater Muscatine Chamber of Commerce & Industry - \$10,000; Eastern Iowa Economic Development Alliance - \$5,700; Wilton Development Corporation - \$3,000; West Liberty Development Corporation - \$3,000; Muscatine County Fair Board - \$24,000; Muscatine Convention & Visitors Bureau - \$0; and Eastern Iowa Tourism Association - \$500.

Budget Coordinator Sherry Seright presented the options as requested for increases to the rural services levy rate as follows: a 25 cent increase results in a Rural Services Fund balance of \$71,166 (4%) and a Secondary Roads Fund balance of \$426,851 (7%) which includes transferring \$1,400,000 from Rural Services to Secondary Roads; a 35 cent increase to the levy rate results in a Rural Services Fund balance of \$137,256 (7%) and a Secondary Roads Fund balance of \$426,851 (7%) which includes transferring \$1,400,000 from Rural Services to Secondary Roads; and a 50 cent increase to the levy rate results in a Rural Services Fund balance of \$136,390 (7%) and a Secondary Roads Fund balance of \$526,851 (9%) which includes transferring \$1,500,000 from Rural Services to Secondary Roads. Watkins stated that if the levy rate is raised 25 cents, then county taxpayers will pay a net increase of 8 cents after the reduction of the MH/DD levy rate of 4 cents and the reduction to the Debt Service levy rate of 13 cents. Sorensen stated that a 25 cent increase gives the County Engineer his capital purchases and replaces the bridge on Iron City Avenue. Furlong stated that a 35 cent increase would only be an 18 cent increase for rural residents. Howard and Sorensen stated they could live with the 35 cent increase. Board consensus was the bridge will be settled when they review the Secondary Roads 5 Year Program.

Discussion was held regarding the replacement policy for desktop computers. Board consensus was to revisit the replacement policy on computers by considering replacement upon failure rather than replacement through a four year rotation. Sorensen stated that they should also consider having the forfeiture fund pay for the County Attorney's new server.

Discussion was held regarding an additional maintenance position. Watkins suggested budgeting around \$55,000 for a Maintenance Supervisor. Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber stated that a Grade 14 would have a range of \$43,177 - \$61,495. Schreiber was directed to include \$52,000 plus a benefits package in the General Services budget to cover a Maintenance Supervisor.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:17 P.M.

ATTEST:

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Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

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David H. Watkins, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors