

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, January 20, 2014

The Muscatine County Board of Supervisors met in regular session with Furlong, Sorensen, Howard, and Kelly present. Sauer was absent. Chairperson Howard presiding.

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

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Furlong, claims dated January 20, 2014 were approved in the amount of \$507,733.16. Ayes: All.

Joni Axel updated the Board on the Blue Zones Project. Axel briefly recapped Muscatine County's role in the project, outlined where the project is in regard to certifications, and referenced future expectations of the project. Mary O'Dell, Trinity Public Health and Greg Jenkins, Greater Muscatine Chamber of Commerce, also spoke about the Blue Zones Project.

On a motion by Furlong, second by Kelly, a public hearing was set for Monday, February 10, 2014 at 9:00 A.M. on proposed amendments to the Muscatine County Zoning Ordinance to add youth and religious camps and retreat facilities as a permitted special use in the A-1 Agricultural District. Ayes: All.

Discussion was held with Zoning Administrator Jodee Stepleton regarding approval of a preliminary plat of the proposed one lot agricultural subdivision, Stecher Farms Subdivision, containing approximately 4 acres in Fulton Township. On a motion by Kelly, second by Sorensen, the Board approved a preliminary plat of the proposed one lot agricultural subdivision, Stecher Farms Subdivision, containing approximately 4 acres in Fulton Township. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Sorensen, the Board approved Resolution #01-20-14-01 Approval of Final Plat of Stecher Farms Subdivision, pending approval by the Muscatine County Board of Health. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

On a motion by Furlong, second by Sorensen, the Board approved Resolution #01-20-14-02 Approval of Final Plat of Brannen Acres Subdivision, pending approval by the Muscatine County Board of Health. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

On a motion by Furlong, second by Sorensen, the Chairperson was authorized to sign the HAVA Election Equipment Annual Certification. Ayes: All.

The Board canvassed the Drainage District #2 Election held on January 13, 2014. Results were as follows: For the office of Trustee for a three-year term beginning January 25, 2014 – Two (2) votes were cast. Chris Meacham received Two (2) votes. Chris Meacham was elected. For the office of Trustee for a two-year term beginning

January 20, 2014 - Two (2) votes were cast. Mike Walker received Two (2) votes. Mike Walker was elected.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Furlong, minutes of the Monday, January 13, 2014 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

Howard, Kelly, Sorensen and Furlong reported a letter of request from the Democratic Central Committee which was referred to the County Attorney for response.

Howard received contacts concerning budget issues and another request about reciting the Pledge of Allegiance before Board meetings.

Sorensen received contact regarding an employment issue.

Committee Reports:

Kelly and Sorensen attended a M.A.G.I.C. Committee meeting January 13th.

Kelly attended a Muscatine Community Health Association meeting January 14th.

Howard attended a Milestones Special Executive meeting January 16th.

Howard attended a Fruitland City Council meeting January 14th. Sorensen attended a meeting of representatives of the City of Wilton and the Cedar County Board of Supervisors to discuss future issues regarding a shared road east of the Wilton city limits February 15th. Sorensen attended a Leadership Muscatine government forum and spoke on the leadership role of a county supervisor February 16th.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Sorensen, the following utility permit was approved: Eastern Iowa Light & Power - overhead line crossing Ward Avenue to 3691 171st Street service. Ayes: All.

County Engineer Keith White updated the Board on Secondary Road projects stating Godbersen-Smith was in the process of removing the old bridge foundations at the Saulsbury Bridge and completion of the approaches to the bridge are scheduled for Spring. White also stated design work on the Burlington Road Bridge replacement should be completed in time for Spring bid letting.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Sorensen, Tom Spread was appointed to the Mercer - Muscatine Revolving Loan Fund Administration Board for a term ending June 20, 2016. Ayes: All. On a motion by Sorensen, second by Furlong, Dave Jones was appointed to the Mercer - Muscatine Revolving Loan Fund Administration Board for a term ending June 20, 2016. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Furlong, second by Sorensen, the Board accepted final completion of the Old Jail HVAC Upgrade Project and approved final pay application in the amount of \$63,767.55. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Furlong, second by Kelly, the Board approved Resolution #01-20-14-03 Encouraging an Increase to the State Fuel Tax Rates. Roll call vote: Ayes: Furlong, Sorensen, Kelly. Nays: Howard. Howard stated he objected to the wording and felt 100% of the revenues should only be spent on our roadways.

The Board recessed at 9:58 A.M. and reconvened at 10:15 AM.

Mary O'Dell, Director of Public Health reviewed the FY14/15 budget request for the Board of Health stating the proposed budget asks for a 2.5% increase over last year. She also stated the new budget request would cost, on average, less than \$5 per resident. O'Dell also presented a chart comparing the average cost of Public Health per resident with other area counties. According to her chart, Muscatine County's costs were considerably lower than other area counties.

Zoning Administrator Jodee Stepleton reviewed the FY14/15 budget request for Zoning/Environmental Services stating that the only increase is for training, meals and lodging, for a new part-time employee.

County Engineer Keith White reviewed the FY14/15 budget request for Secondary Roads stating his goal was to try to get the budget expenditures down to match what the income will be. White stated the primary issue with meeting a budget, has much to do with the fiscal-year timeline and because of weather, and other set-backs, the Saulsbury Bridge Project was not completed in one fiscal year.

The Board recessed at 11:54 A.M. and reconvened at 1:00 P.M.

Conservation Director Curt Weiss reviewed the FY14/15 budget request for the Conservation Department stating the only non-personnel increase in his proposed budget is \$5,500, of which \$3,000 is designated for three more portable toilets at Deep Lakes Park. Weiss stated since 1976 several new wildlife areas and parks have been added to the County Conservation Board system, but only two additional full-time employees have been added. With the addition of the 435 acre Deep Lakes Park, Weiss is requesting an additional full-time employee (in the \$45,000 salary range) who will be certified as a Peace Officer and also perform some of the maintenance duties.

County Attorney Alan Ostergren reviewed the FY14/15 budget request for the Attorney's Office stating the most significant increase in his budget provides for an additional Assistant County Attorney at an approximate cost of \$75,000. Ostegren stated the recent implementation of the fees collection program has generated over \$100,000 in excess of program costs in the County Attorney's department. Ostegren also stated a new assistant would allow the office to prosecute more cases in a timely manner. Ostegren said some cases aren't being resolved in less than 8 months and there could be cost savings on the "jail side" because timely prosecution could lessen jail time for prisoners waiting for case resolution. Ostegren stated he is planning an upgrade to their Pro Law Software that will be paid out of forfeiture funds.

Information Services Director Bill Riley reviewed the FY14/15 budget request for the Information Services Department stating he has included a request from the Recorder's Office to replace their indexing software at a cost of approximately \$40,000.

County Treasurer Jerry Coffman reviewed the FY14/15 budget request stating that due to a reduction in staff, the tax statement mailings are outsourced and the biggest difference in this year's budget is due to the U.S. Postal Service's increase in stamps.

County Recorder Cindy Gray reviewed the FY14/15 budget request for the Recorder's Office stating there are basically no changes in her budget from last year, but that she is still working on microfilm imaging of her books.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:04 P.M.

ATTEST:

Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

Robert E. Howard, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors