

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Tuesday, January 21, 2014

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

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

Sheriff Dave White reviewed the FY14/15 budget request for the Sheriff's Office and Jail stating he is showing an increase in uniforms because this is the year by contract that they replace bullet proof vests, but that a federal grant pays for half of the cost. White stated he also increased patrol cars slightly due to rising costs and increased setup of the new vehicles since he cannot reuse the same cages as they no longer purchase Crown Victorias. White stated the Jail budget reflects decreases partially due to reduced number of inmates. White does not anticipate growth in inmate count in the near future. White stated he also reduced utilities due to the savings he is seeing with the geothermal system. White stated he has not been able to update policies and procedures since he and the Jail Administrator have no secretary, nor a window person, so he will be coming forward in the next month with a plan on how to get that done. White stated the inmate work crew program has been very successful and a great benefit to the County and other communities in the County.

White stated he has included \$5,500 in his budget for Search and Rescue to cover expenses. White stated there may be a need for some upgrading of equipment in the future, but for right now everything is in good shape.

Tom Summitt, Chief Medical Examiner Investigator, reviewed the FY14/15 budget request for Medical Examiner. Summitt requested an hourly increase from \$32.20 to \$34.00 per hour for medical examiner investigators stating they have not had an increase since 2008. Summitt also requested a \$5,000 per year administrative fee as he currently receives no compensation for his management of the Medical Examiner Office. Summitt stated the budget reflects a decrease in medical examiner fees paid to Unity because currently Dr. Odell is the only doctor contacted when a death occurs and he is no longer charging the County for his services. Summitt stated that total death investigations in 2013 were 79.

Summitt stated that the EMS Grant for FY14/15 is budgeted at \$8,000 which covers training.

The Board recessed at 10:10 A.M. and reconvened at 10:17 A.M.

Community Services Director Mike Johannsen reviewed the FY14/15 budget requests for General Assistance and Veterans Affairs stating they share some resources and the combined budget proposal reflects a decrease. Johannsen stated they have several partners relative to prevention including the Y-Family Program Services and the MSCA

Shelter. Johannsen stated that the Capacity Grant that the County pays to MCSA is merely helping to keep the doors open, so the County still pays rent to MCSA for County residents. Johannsen stated the number of veterans serviced by Veterans Affairs is continuing to increase. Johannsen stated they have allocated a little more time from other staff members to alleviate some of the excess work handled by the Veterans Affairs department and he is working with the Veterans Affairs Commission and Human Resources to possibly develop new job descriptions to reflect the changes.

Johannsen reviewed the FY14/15 budget request for Mental Health stating the budget he is proposing will be folded into the regional system at the end of FY14. Johannsen stated Muscatine County funds will be managed and spent locally, but will have to be approved by the Region. Johannsen stated that after this fiscal year, the Region will be deciding how to spend the funds for the Region which will be how the equalization funds that the Region receives from the State of Iowa will be utilized, since in the past, not all Counties had the same practices and some Counties may not have enough to cover the additional expenses.

The Board reviewed the FY14/15 budget requests for Administration/Board of Supervisors, Court Services and Non-Departmental with Budget Coordinator Sherry Seright and Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber. Seright stated that the County share of the Disaster Services budget has increased from \$12,000 to \$76,452 due to a change in how Emergency Management is funded. Seright stated that the assessment method the County is using to bill the other cities in the County is being changed to determination of each entity's share by valuation rather than by Census. Seright noted a significant decrease in Workman's Compensation due to the County's experience.

The Board reviewed the FY14/15 budget request for General Services with Budget Coordinator Sherry Seright. Seright stated the total budget has been reduced by 5%. Seright asked the Board to consider promoting one of the Custodians to a Lead Custodian to better coordinate custodial work and purchasing of custodial supplies.

Personnel and Business Manager Felicia Toppert reviewed the FY14/15 budget request for the Iowa Department of Human Services. Toppert stated that the geothermal system will increase the revenues, but there is no way at this time to know the amount of that increase.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 P.M.

ATTEST:

Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

Robert E. Howard, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors