

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, February 24, 2014

The Muscatine County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 7:00 P.M. with Sorensen, Howard, Sauer and Kelly present. Furlong was absent. Chairperson Howard presiding.

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

A Public Hearing was called to order by Chairperson Howard at 7:02 P.M. for the purpose of instituting proceedings and taking action to enter into a loan agreement in a principal amount not to exceed \$1,500,000 for the purpose of financing improvements and repairs to County buildings and acquiring emergency services communication equipment. Budget Coordinator Sherry Seright stated the tentative budget for the communication is \$750,000 which is half of the loan amount. Seright stated the rest would be used for repairs at various County buildings and upgrading the County Recorder's software. Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber stated the \$1,500,000 is already in the Fiscal Year 14-15 budget. No one spoke against the loan agreement. On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kelly, the public hearing was closed at 7:04 P.M. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Sorensen, the Board approved Resolution #02-24-14-01 Authorizing a Loan Agreement and Providing for a Debt Service Tax Levy. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

Vic Amoroso, A&J Associates, presented bids for the Muscatine County Administration Building HVAC Design Project as follows: Boche – base bid - \$972,800.00, Alternate 1 - \$46,200.00, Alternate 2 - \$46,145.00; JL Brady – base bid - \$1,273,317.00, Alternate 1 - \$54,000.00, Alternate 2 - \$54,067.00; and Ryan & Associates – base bid - \$1,153,200.00, Alternate 1 - \$50,820.00, Alternate 2 - \$50,760.00. Amoroso recommended the Board accept the Boche bid. On a motion by Kelly, second by Sorensen, the Board approved a bid from Boche in the amount of the base bid of \$972,800.00 with Alternate 2 in the amount of \$46,145.00 for the Muscatine County Administration Building HVAC Design Project. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board authorized the Chair to sign a Statement of Election Costs for the February 4, 2014 Wilton School Special Election. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Sorensen, minutes of the Monday, February 17, 2014 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

Howard received a contact regarding the Sheriff Department's recent staff hiring.

Committee Reports:

Kelly attended a Bi-State Drug and Alcohol Consortium meeting February 20th.

Kelly attended an Eastern Iowa MH/DS Region (MH Reorganization) presentation February 24th.

Sorensen attended a Wilton Development Corporation meeting February 19th.

Howard attended a Milestones Area Agency on Aging Advisory Board meeting February 18th.

Howard attended a Milestones Area Agency on Aging public hearing February 20th.

Howard attended a Greater Muscatine Chamber of Commerce and Industry meeting February 21st.

Sauer attended a Riverbend Transit Board of Directors meeting February 19th.

Sauer attended a Muscatine County Board of Health meeting February 19th.

Sauer toured the Muscatine County Jail on February 17th. Sorensen and Howard attended an Eastern Iowa MH/DS Region (MH Reorganization) presentation February 24th.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kelly, the Board approved Ordinance #02-24-14-01 Amending the Muscatine County Zoning Ordinance Relating to Youth and Religious Camps on the third and final reading. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Sorensen, the Board approved a hiring request for a Corrections Sergeant (Grade 10, Step 14), Sheriff's Office - Jail. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Sorensen, the Board set a public hearing for Monday, March 17, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. on proposed plans, specifications, cost estimate and form of contract for the Muscatine County Community Services Re-Roofing Project. Ayes: All.

The Board reviewed the Code of Iowa provisions regarding the possible combination of County offices. Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber stated the combination of County Offices can only be done by a petition to be put on the ballot for the General Election. Schreiber stated the deadline for filing the petition in the Auditor's Office is August 20th and the petition would need to have a minimum of 4,718 signatures. Schreiber stated the petition must state the offices to be combined and the offices to be abolished and in Muscatine County's case, if the measure passed, the person on the ballot elected to the Office of Recorder would not take office. Schreiber stated that the Board of Supervisors would set the initial salary for the elected official of the combined offices until the Compensation Board met and then the Compensation Board would make the salary recommendation.

Kelly stated by Code the real estate portion of the Recorder's Office must be assigned to the Auditor but the Board could appoint someone to perform the other Recorder duties or assign those duties to another office. County Recorder Cindy Gray stated by Code the vital records must go to the County Registrar which would be the Auditor if the Recorder's position is abolished. Sorensen stated if it was decided to pursue this further

the County should form a study committee to recommend duty assignments. Gray stated she has information on studies performed in the past by other Counties. Gray stated there are two Counties that have combined offices and six other Counties did studies and as a result decided not to combine offices. Gray stated she would not want to see a petition to have this on the ballot done before the matter has been studied further. Howard stated the petition would not come from the Board of Supervisors but from the public. Sorensen stated this should be looked at carefully because if you lose an elected position you lose the ability for the tax payer to make change. Sorensen stated he sees pros and cons and does not know what the right answer is. Howard suggested County residents contact the Board with their thoughts and opinions on this matter. Sauer stated combining offices would need to be efficient, effective and cost the same to have his support. Gray stated her calculations show the cost savings would be minimal. Gray stated the public can obtain information on other County studies from the President of the Recorder's Association. Board consensus was to wait and see if there is an interest from the community before doing a study.

On a motion by Kelly, second by Sorensen, the Board accepted the February, 2014 payroll claims. Ayes: All.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

ATTEST:

Leslie A. Soule, Auditor

Robert E. Howard, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors