

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors  
Monday, January 19, 2015

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

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

Bill Craig, 3314 160<sup>th</sup> Street, expressed concern regarding a failed box culvert on Martz Lane. Craig stated he has a hog confinement operation which hauls manure to ground leased by Kevin Meyer that requires crossing the culvert on Martz Lane. Craig stated the County Engineer made several unsuccessful attempts to repair the box culvert. Craig stated the residents would like to see the culvert replaced. Craig stated if the crossing is closed, they would have to haul onto Hwy 61 with large farm equipment causing significant safety risk when mixed with Hwy 61 traffic. Craig referred to accidents that have occurred between farm equipment and Hwy 61 traffic, stating the severity of the accident is much greater with high versus slow moving collisions. Craig stated he is asking the Board to find money to repair or replace culvert. Howard asked if they would still have to get to the other side of Hwy 61 if the culvert was repaired. Craig responded they do haul to farms across Hwy 61. Howard noted they are still mixing with Hwy 61 traffic. Sauer asked about the option to take 160<sup>th</sup> Street over to Vail Avenue, up to 150<sup>th</sup> Street and down Underwood Avenue. Craig stated Vail Ave is a seal coat which at times is embargoed and the heavy manure transfer equipment will cause considerable damage to Vail Avenue. Kevin Meyer stated pulling out on Hwy 61 at Vail Avenue is a risk with farm equipment slowly pulling out with high speed vehicles coming around the curve. Meyer stated because of the failed culvert, he is currently traveling down Hwy 61 with a tractor and grain cart with a maximum speed of 32 miles per hour, an 18' wide combine and both a 30' long 12-row head and 35' long bean platform hauled behind a pickup. Chief Deputy CJ Ryan stated Hwy 61 is patrolled heavily, but they routinely see vehicles in excess of 90 miles per hour. County Engineer Keith White stated they unsuccessfully tried to repair the culvert with County staff. White stated he contacted Muscatine Bridge, but the structure is 101 years old, so the \$60,000 cost to repair may be better put towards a new structure which would cost \$150,000 - \$160,000. Sauer stated it is dangerous to pull out at the 160<sup>th</sup> Street and Vail Avenue intersection. The Board will take the concerns under consideration during their budget sessions.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, claims dated January 19, 2015 were approved in the amount of \$495,810.80. Ayes: All.

A Public Hearing was called to order at 9:41 A.M. by Chairperson Kelly on a proposed amendment to Title III, Chapter VI – Construction Codes and Enforcement of the Muscatine County Code of Ordinances. Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber reviewed the proposed amendment. No one spoke for or against the amendment. On a motion by Howard, second by Sorensen, the public hearing was closed at 9:41 A.M. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Howard, an ordinance amending the Muscatine County Subdivision Ordinance was approved on the first of three readings. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

The Board reviewed drawings/plans for the Courthouse Lighting Project with John Jurca, A&J Associates. Jurca stated the Board could implement all of the project or any part of it, but the estimated total cost of the entire project is \$120,525. Jurca stated this project is for decorative lighting, not security lighting at the Courthouse. Jurca stated conduits were placed under the sidewalks last year during the landscaping project in anticipation of this project. Bonebrake stated he is not opposed to starting small and working into it, but feels there are better ways to spend \$120,000 than on decorative lights for the Courthouse. Seright stated tax credit dollars could be used for the entrance lighting portion of the project, because it would be restored to its original appearance. The Board will review this during their budget discussions of capital projects.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Bonebrake, the Board authorized the Chair to execute a Memorandum of Understanding for the 2015 HIDTA Award, in the amount of \$66,641.00. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board approved plans and specifications for HRRR-C070(60)—5R-70, PCC paved shoulder improvements on portions of Zachary Avenue (Y36). Ayes: All.

On a motion by Howard, second by Sauer, minutes of the Monday, January 12, 2015 regular meeting and Friday, January 16, 2015 special meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

Howard reported a contact regarding a box culvert on Martz Lane.

Committee Reports:

Sauer attended a Muscatine County Conservation Board meeting January 12<sup>th</sup>.

Kelly and Bonebrake attended a MAGIC meeting January 12<sup>th</sup>.

Kelly attended a MAGIC Salary Study meeting January 13<sup>th</sup>.

Kelly presented to Leadership Muscatine January 15<sup>th</sup>.

Sorensen attended a Muscatine Convention and Visitors Bureau meeting January 12<sup>th</sup>.

Sorensen attended a Muscatine County Solid Waste Management meeting January 12<sup>th</sup>.

The Board recessed at 10:05 A.M. and reconvened at 10:17 A.M.

Budget Coordinator Sherry Seright reviewed the FY15/16 budget request for Zoning/Environmental Services stating the Zoning Office is asking to trade-in the 2006 Chevy Trailblazer for a new vehicle at an approximate cost of \$22,400.00. Board

consensus was to remove the vehicle from the budget. The Board would like to see Administration put together a plan for County vehicle maintenance/replacement schedules.

County Engineer Keith White reviewed the FY15/16 budget request for Secondary Roads stating they try to spend revenue on the roads every year leaving approximately 25% in the fund balance. White reviewed road and bridge projects which were included in the FY15/16 budget. White stated the proposed increase in the engineering portion of the budget is implementation of the succession plan through the addition of another engineer which will not be spent if the Board does not proceed with or postpones implementation of the succession plan during FY15/16. Sorensen suggested the Board consider transferring General Fund money to the Secondary Road Fund. Budget Coordinator Sherry Seright stated the Board transferred funds for years until local option funding was funneled to Secondary Roads over ten years ago. White reviewed proposed capital expenditures during FY15/16 as follows: Tandem Plow Trucks with Snow Equipment (Trade-ins) - \$388,000; Light Duty Trucks (Trades) - \$63,000; Motor Grader (Trade) - \$192,000; Cold Storage Building - \$135,000; and Water Main - \$50,000.

The Board recessed at 12:02 P.M. and reconvened at 1:08 P.M.

Tom Summitt, Chief Medical Examiner Investigator, reviewed the FY15/16 budget request for Medical Examiner stating his only increase is in equipment/supplies. Summitt stated he has started charging for copies of medical reports unless it is for law enforcement or the County Attorney. Summitt stated he is the only death investigator actually certified so he has included funding for the certification of two more death investigators.

Summitt stated that the EMS Grant for FY15/16 is budgeted at \$9,000 which covers training and quality improvement through education and standardization of records.

Information Services Director Bill Riley reviewed the FY15/16 budget request for the Information Services Department stating he has included approximately \$50,000 to change the backup solution from once a day backup to tape to a solution that would allow for data loss to be restored within 4 hours. Riley stated an additional storage area network device at a cost of \$55,000 is included in the budget. Riley stated the backup solution could be phased in over a period of time. Riley proposed moving to a hosted email that includes larger mailboxes, filtering and archiving at an estimated cost of \$13,000.

Conservation Director Curt Weiss reviewed the FY15/16 budget request for the Conservation Department stating the increase of \$5,000 in part time summer help was pulled from the YCC program that no longer exists. Weiss stated the County is no longer eligible for the aquatic education grant. Weiss stated the budget includes a \$30,000 transfer to the vehicle/equipment reserve fund with proposed capital expenditures in FY15/16 as follows: 1997 GMC 4X4 - \$25,000; and 2007 John Deere mower - \$12,000. Bonebrake stated an ATV would be useful to Conservation at Deep Lakes Park as long as training and insurance coverage is available.

County Treasurer Amy Zybarth reviewed the FY15/16 budget request for the Treasurer's Office stating all non-personnel expenditures are the same as FY14/15. Zybarth stated the budget does include a clerk position that is currently vacant and budgeted at \$52,000 with benefits. Zybarth stated that she is planning on hiring an entry level clerk and may designate a current clerk as a senior clerk. Zybarth stated she is paying her deputies a lower percentage than last fiscal year. Zybarth stated she needs the clerk to maintain adequate segregation of duties. Zybarth stated she has three employees with over 20 years of experience that may retire soon and they are the ones who should train the new clerks. Howard asked Zybarth to provide information to the Board of the duties that have to be segregated to see if there are any duties that could possibly be done by another department in order to help with the segregation of duties. Zybarth stated that she would want the person to report to the Treasurer's Office because there are so many liabilities and responsibilities that she is responsible for and it would not be fair to ask another office who is not familiar with the activity that goes on in the Treasurer's Office to sign off on something that they would not know why they are approving it. Sorensen stated he has been a big proponent of job sharing although he has not really thought about how to handle segregation of duties in relation to possible job sharing.

County Recorder Sarah Bodman reviewed the FY15/16 budget request for the Recorder's Office stating she would like to see the 25 hour part time position budgeted at \$19,500 remain in the budget. Bodman stated that the part-time employee handles most of the DNR, covers for vacations/sick leave and backs up the counter. Bodman stated they bring in about \$100,000 in Boat/ATV registrations and hunting/fishing licenses, but most of the fee is remitted to the State.

County Auditor Leslie Soule reviewed the FY15/16 budget request for the Auditor's Office stating that the only increase is \$6,000 for the purchase of a new copier. Soule stated the current copier is eight years old and increasingly requiring more maintenance. Soule also stated the Election Systems & Software (ES&S) vote tabulation equipment purchased in 2004 needs to be replaced within the next 5 years at an approximate cost of \$250,000. Soule stated the equipment has a useful life of approximately 10 years, but is still operating efficiently. Soule stated the time will come when ES&S will no longer provide support for the equipment due to the development of newer versions. Soule stated she would like to still use the current equipment through the 2016 Presidential election with possible replacement after November 2016.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:51 P.M.

ATTEST:

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Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

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Kas Kelly, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors