

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Tuesday, January 20, 2015

The Muscatine County Board of Supervisors met in special session at 10:00 A.M. with Bonebrake, Sorensen, Kelly and Howard present. Sauer was absent. Chairperson Kelly presiding.

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

Mary O'Dell, Director of Public Health, reviewed the FY15/16 budget request for the Board of Health stating the proposed budget asks for a 3% increase over last year. O'Dell stated Muscatine County only spends \$4.50 per resident by contracting with Trinity for Public Health Services, whereas surrounding counties budget between \$15 and \$25 per resident.

Sauer joined the meeting at 10:12 A.M.

Chief Deputy C J Ryan reviewed the FY15/16 budget request for the Sheriff's Office and Jail stating vehicle purchases and setup increased slightly due to a new platform of transitioning vehicles to Tahoes and Chargers. Ryan stated they try to transition equipment from older vehicles, but the current vehicles transitioning out are Crown Victorias, which do not transition well. Ryan stated that will only leave two Crown Victorias left in the fleet. Ryan stated jail prisoner population is currently 19 federal, 63 Johnson County and 71 local for a total of 153 prisoners. Ryan anticipated in March 2015 Johnson County prisoners may increase by 60-70 per day for a period of six months due to work at the Johnson County Jail. Ryan stated they are currently working on development of a policy for body cams purchased by some of the deputies.

Sheriff White discussed Courthouse Security stating the judges requested more coverage by Courthouse Security earlier and later in the day. White stated that change will be incorporated July 1st. White stated they also requested more alarms. White stated he has patched the Jail video recording system for the last several years, but he is running into software issues and the whole system is outdated. White stated he is hoping to find a solution in the near future and stay within the current budget.

Sheriff Dave White stated he has included \$5,500 in his budget for Search and Rescue to cover expenses. White stated insurance has been a huge expense, but they are moving towards being insured by the County which should save money. White stated they have a large panel truck that is incurring large repairs, but he was able to get them a surplus military vehicle with only 3,600 miles on the odometer.

Community Services Director Mike Johannsen reviewed the FY15/16 budget request for General Assistance stating the proposed budget reflects an overall 8% decrease. Johannsen stated the Affordable Care Act has caused a significant reduction to the cost of counseling and medication as many clients now have Title XIX. Johannsen stated they

have not increased what they have provided for food supplements for years, so he would like to have another conversation in the near future with the Board about boosting the assistance by a couple of dollars per supplement. Howard asked how they go about getting private donations. Johannsen stated Food Pantry Coordinator Tim Stelzner works with all of the service clubs and has a great network with area churches. Johannsen stated they just received a check from the Muscatine High School for \$7,000 which will be divided equally between the Food Pantry and the Bag of Blessings program. Johannsen stated that he reduced the amount for rent payments and is proposing \$25,000 for a Housing Advocate through MCSA. Maggie Curry, MCSA Executive Director, stated the Housing advocate moves clients to a more independent status.

Johannsen reviewed the FY15/16 budget request for Veteran Affairs stating they are pretty much status quo. Veterans Affairs Director Jennifer Watkins-Schoenig stated in the areas of outreach, she attends conferences and meetings. Watkins-Schoenig stated she takes every opportunity to speak in public and will be on the radio next Tuesday.

Johannsen reviewed the FY15/16 budget request for Mental Health stating this will be the first full year that the County will be part of the Regional budget. Johannsen stated \$100,000 has been included in the budget for crisis stabilization with the intent of embedding a social worker in the emergency room to divert some of the mental health cases. Johannsen stated \$82,699 has been budgeted for sheltered workshops which is a core plus service that the region is going to continue to provide in the upcoming year. Johannsen stated the portion Muscatine County will have to supply to the region's pool of funds for FY15/16 is approximately \$920,000.

Johannsen reviewed the FY15/16 Case Management budget stating due to regionalization, it is no longer part of the Mental Health Fund. Johannsen stated he has had six personnel changes this year for a variety of reasons with loss of considerable experience. Johannsen stated he has worked with the Human Resources department to work their way through this by filling some positions, with two positions still open. Johannsen stated the budget reflects filling only one of the remaining positions

The Board recessed at 12:09 P.M. and reconvened at 1:15 P.M.

County Attorney Alan Ostergren reviewed the FY15/16 budget request for the Attorney's Office stating the County is clearing about \$110,000 over and above the cost of the fine collection program, so he is requesting the addition of another staff member for the program at an approximate cost of \$48,000 including benefits. Ostergren stated the additional staff member would work on collecting debt incurred prior to 2012 and tracking down the debt that is a little harder collect. In response to a question from Sauer, Ostergren stated he estimates it would take 5-7 years for this person to complete the work of collecting the debt incurred prior to 2012. Ostergren stated the fines collection program also collects restitution that goes directly to the victim. Ostergren stated they would need to collect another \$7,000 - \$8,000 per month to pay for the additional position. Howard stated his concern is that without knowing how much in total they are going after, they could hire this position and discover there is not enough there to go after

in order to justify this position. Sorensen stated he likes the restitution portion of this position. Ostergren stated they will begin electronic filing with the court system on February 24th, so they will have a lot of training this month. Ostergren stated the system is designed to put the work on the filer rather than the Clerk of Court, but he is not asking for additional staff to cover that extra workload at this time.

The Board reviewed the FY15/16 budget requests for DHS, Administration/Board of Supervisors, Court Services and General Services with Budget Coordinator Sherry Seright and Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:38 P.M.

ATTEST:

Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

Kas Kelly, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors