

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, January 26, 2015 – Special Session

The Muscatine County Board of Supervisors met in special 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.

Discussion was held with Community Services Director Mike Johannsen regarding the FY15/16 General Assistance budget request. The Board asked for explanation of the new MCSA Housing Advocate funding in the General Assistance budget. Johannsen stated because of the work of the Housing Advocate they have been able to reduce the rent and shelter services lines in the budget because the clients assisted by the Housing Advocate are able to stay in their home rather than go to the shelter. In response to a question from Howard, MCSA Director Maggie Curry stated overall staffing is currently 23 employees (10 FT/13 PT). Howard requested a listing of MCSA employees with salaries and job titles. Johannsen stated the main expense in human service organizations is usually personnel, but the bottom line is his budget is reduced and they are able to keep people in housing. Johannsen stated MCSA provides a navigator through the Housing Advocate program to help clients so that his staff does not have to spend a lot of time mentoring and teaching them to be on their own. In response to a question from Sorensen, Curry stated that MCSA has an endowment through Community Foundation with an unrestricted balance \$156,036 and a restricted balance of \$388,816.

GIS Manager Mark Warren reviewed the FY15/16 MAGIC budget stating he has budgeted \$15,700 to purchase a new standalone database server and \$32,000 to possibly migrate current data to Parcel Fabric. In response to a question from Howard, Warren stated the County pays more for MAGIC because it covers a greater territory than the City of Muscatine when it comes to parcel mapping. Warren updated the Board on the County's Septic GPS device project. Warren stated the mobile app is there, but the problem is getting a GPS device that is fast, accurate and inexpensive. Warren stated the cheaper \$500 GPS device purchased was not fast enough to be efficient. Warren stated the County will realistically have to spend \$5,000 - \$10,000 to get a better quality GPS device.

MUSCOM Manager Lorrie Lacina and Emergency Manager Matt Shook reviewed the FY15/16 Emergency Management and MUSCOM budgets. Shook state the Emergency Management budget reflects an \$8,500 increase to professional services for the addition of General Liability/ Errors and Omissions Insurance. Shook stated the budget also includes Search and Rescue as there has been discussion of moving them under Emergency Management rather than the Sheriff. Shook stated the FY15/16 MUSCOM budget includes changes to staffing to reflect the shift from 8 hour shifts to 12 hour shifts. Discussion ensued regarding the proposed upgrade and purchase of infrastructure and law enforcement radios to a P25 platform at a cost of approximately 2.2 million dollars versus the \$620,000 that is proposed in the original budget request. Shook stated that at last

week's MUSCOM meeting, the Fire Departments requested inclusion in the upgrade at a possible cost of an additional 2.5 million dollars. Howard stated the P25 platform is now the national standard. Sauer stated loss of life is not acceptable due to communication failure. Shook stated the County would be joining the State of Illinois in using Starcom which uses Motorola equipment.

The Board recessed at 10:47 A.M. and reconvened at 11:00 A.M.

Further discussion ensued regarding the FY15/16 MUSCOM and Emergency Management budget requests. Motorola representative Scott Schultz stated the radios have a life of 15-20 years and the system is upgraded every two years. Schultz stated the 5 million dollar estimate is probably high. Budget Coordinator Sherry Seright stated that Shook and Schultz will meet this afternoon to provide a better estimate for the project for placement in the FY15/16 budget. Seright stated the \$620,000 already in the budget and the \$750,000 acquired through FY15 issuance of debt will be applied towards the cost of the project. In regards to the CAD upgrade budgeted, Bonebrake asked why MAGIC could not be used with Shieldware, instead of Geocom. Shook stated that Shieldware will not integrate with MAGIC and to change to a different vendor would be extremely expensive. Kelly asked if going to a 12-hour shift seems like a long shift for dispatch. Lacina stated they only work two 12-hour shifts and are then off for two days. Lacina stated the new arrangement allows each employee two weekends off per month and has been a great boost to moral as the employees can spend more time with their family.

The Board recessed at 12:03 P.M. and reconvened at 12:15 P.M.

Board consensus was to move \$620,000 out of the MUSCOM FY15/16 budget into the Capital Project Fund.

The Board directed Administrative Services Director to include a 2.5% increase to the scale and implement grade changes from the Salary Study by placing the employees in the next grade on a step that would allow for a maximum of 5% increase plus the 2.5% increase to the scale.

Discussion was held regarding positions requested in the FY15/16 budget. The Board directed Administrative Services Director to include the full-time Fines Collector position for the Attorney's Office and the full-time Treasurer Clerk in the FY15/16 budget. The Board directed Schreiber to include the part-time Recorder Clerk position in the FY15/16 budget with a reduction to 20 hours per week for the position. The Board directed Schreiber to remove the funding for the MCSA Navigator from the General Assistance budget.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:08 P.M.

ATTEST:

Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

Kas Kelly, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors