

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors  
Saturday, May 16, 2015

The Muscatine County Board of Supervisors met in special session at 1:00 P.M. with Howard, Sorensen, Kelly, Sauer and Bonebrake present. Chairperson Kelly presiding.

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

Discussion was held regarding Muscatine County Joint Communications (MUSCOM) and possibly updating of the 28E agreement between Muscatine County and the City of Muscatine. Chairperson Kelly provided a brief overview of the ten year history of MUSCOM. Sorensen stated the current 28E agreement between the City of Muscatine and the County has limited scope and needs to be updated. Sorensen also stated the County should probably have 28E agreements with the outlying cities as well.

Dave Watkins, Moscow, asked what needs to be changed in the current agreement. Bonebrake stated under the current agreement, the County would only buy equipment for the County and the City would have to buy the City's equipment. Watkins stated the smaller cities should be allowed representation on the MUSCOM Board. Kelly stated a proposed new agreement would address the funding issue, allowing the County to fund the purchase of all of the equipment, as well as addressing representation on the Board. Bonebrake stated the current 28E agreement is vague about responsibilities of the MUSCOM Board versus the Directing Board and until they have a document detailed in that area, he is not comfortable moving forward with purchasing new equipment.

Esther Dean, Muscatine, stated the 28E agreement has worked well for the last ten years and questioned why there is a need to make major changes. Kelly stated the current agreement has not worked well in recent years. MUSCOM Manager Lorrie Lacina stated the radio system has not worked well for the last five years and one unified system for all departments would address some of those issues. Kelly stated the development of a new 28E agreement has been in the works for a year and the urgency to move forward has to do with funding and liability issues. Muscatine City Councilmember Tom Spread stated the funding issue is an easy change to the existing 28E agreement, but questioned the need to change anything else. Muscatine County Budget Coordinator Sherry Seright stated in 2009, when MUSCOM funding moving to a countywide fund levy, it resulted in a layer of oversight which is no longer needed.

Howard stated this is not just between the City of Muscatine and the County, everyone needs to be involved. Sorensen stated he wants a system which all entities will support. Lacina stated she supports the User Group with city and rural representation established in the proposed updated 28E agreement. Spread stated everyone who dials 911 deserves a timely response, but 72% of fire calls and 75% of emergency calls go to the Muscatine Fire Department, with 52% of the police calls going to the Muscatine Police Department so he feels the City has some responsibility for oversight. Sorensen stated the people who do the work should control the day to day operations. Muscatine County

Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber stated the Emergency Management Commission has final decision regarding the budget.

Spread stated he has seen two versions of the proposed 28E agreement and asked who developed the version being considered. Schreiber stated she and Seright have done most of the work, but it is up to the political entities to decide if it is what they want. Spread suggested developing a working group to develop a 28E agreement acceptable to everyone.

Conesville City Councilmember Sue O'Donnell stated her Council is in agreement they want all communications to work well throughout the County and are in favor of the purchase of the new equipment. O'Donnell stated the Board is trying to get all of the players together to address the issues and move forward. O'Donnell stated a Memorandum of Understanding is probably sufficient for Conesville, but Wilton and West Liberty may want something more formal. Watkins recommended asking the County Attorney whether a 28E or Memorandum of Understanding is more legally binding and which addresses the County's liabilities.

Board consensus was that Chairperson Kelly and Muscatine Mayor Hopkins will work together to appoint a working group of elected officials to hammer out a 28E agreement.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:33 P.M.

ATTEST:

---

Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

---

Kas Kelly, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors