

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, June 1, 2015

The Muscatine County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 9:00 A.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.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Sorensen, the following utility permit was approved: Eastern Iowa Light & Power –Replace overhead service with underground service between 3109 and 3111 180th Street. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the following utility permit was approved: Unite Private Networks – placement of a 96 count fiber optic cable across the entire County, mostly on State Right-Of-Way from Iowa City to Davenport. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Bonebrake, the Board approved a contract, bond and certificate of insurance for L-(Sanitary Sewer)—73-70 for a sanitary sewer extension on Park Avenue West from Sulzco, LLC in the amount of \$113,985.20. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board approved a contract, bond and certificate of insurance for HRRR-C070(60)—5R-70 for PCC paved shoulders and safety overrun on Zachary Avenue (Y36) from Streb Construction Co., Inc. in the amount of \$653,841.54. Ayes: All.

County Engineer Keith White updated the Board on various construction projects.

Discussion was held with Alex Fulton, 321 W. Walnut, Des Moines, IA on a request for a renewable energy pledge of support. Fulton stated he is educating elected officials on the essence of renewable fuels with hopes that ethanol will be a source of fuel without any subsidies by 2024. Fulton stated he is asking the Board to voice support of the renewable fuels standard. The Board will take Fulton's request under advisement.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Bonebrake, the Board authorized the Chair to execute the FFY2015-16 Iowa/Byrne – Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program Contract in the amount of \$19,681. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Howard, second by Sauer, the Board approved a revised class specification for the Office Administrator position in the Zoning Office and a recommendation that the position remain in Grade 8. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Howard, the Board approved a revised class specification for the Building, Zoning and Environmental Inspector position, along with a grade change recommendation on the revised class specification from Grade 8 to Grade 10. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board approved an adjustment to Grade 10, Step 5 for current Building, Zoning and Environmental Inspector Jim Schaapveld recognizing his recently obtained electrical inspection certification. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Bonebrake, the Board authorized increasing the current part-time Building, Zoning and Environmental Inspector position to full-time status. Ayes: All.

Discussion was held regarding the possible hiring of an additional part-time Building, Zoning and Environmental Inspector position. Howard stated he would like to wait to see if there is a need for the position after a new Planning and Zoning Administrator is hired. Bonebrake agreed. Sorensen agreed, but also would like the County to consider performing rental inspections in the future. Sauer stated the County might be better able to determine the need for the position after this construction season. On a motion by Sorensen, second by Bonebrake, the Board tabled authorization of an addition of a part-time Building, Zoning and Environmental Inspector position. Ayes: All.

Discussion was held with County Treasurer Amy Zybarth regarding staffing in the Treasurer's Office. Zybarth stated she is requesting two of her Treasurer III Clerks be promoted to Treasurer II Clerk in recognition of their years of service and the higher level of service they provide. Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber stated one Treasurer Clerk II position was included in the budget. Sauer asked why Zybarth is requesting this change now. Zybarth stated at the Board's request, she took some time to assess and assign the duties in the Treasurer's Office. Howard stated the timing is poor and he would prefer to wait until budget time next year. Sorensen stated there has been a change in overall staffing and he is agreeable to the promotion. Zybarth stated she has revenue to offset the additional \$3,797 necessary to cover these changes. Sauer stated he agrees with Sorensen. Howard stated he could agree to the one promotion, but not the second. Zybarth stated both clerks have increased responsibility and are being placed on a lower step which allows for a reasonable increase without adversely affecting the County financially. Bonebrake stated promotions should be based on merit, not longevity. Zybarth stated they are based on merit. On a motion by Sorensen, second by Bonebrake, the Board authorized promotion of Lisa Dunham and Roberta Ryan from Treasurer Clerk III to Treasurer Clerk II. Ayes: Sorensen, Kelly, Sauer and Bonebrake. Nay: Howard.

Further discussion continued with regards to filling a full-time Treasurer Clerk III position. Sorensen stated adding help to cover longevity is a downward spiral, but he does understand that two staff members were removed from the Treasurer's Office a couple of years ago. Howard stated he is not convinced that adding staff deals with that issue. Bonebrake agreed stating they will be short staffed for the next several weeks and a temp position for those weeks may be a better solution. Zybarth stated this is not a longevity situation and this position was already approved in the budget. Zybarth stated none of her positions have a backup, so she needs this position in order to cross train other employees. Zybarth stated it is difficult to get a temp that can handle transactions

with the regulations and amount of money flowing through their office. Budget Coordinator Sherry Seright stated this is not an additional position and only takes the staffing level to where it was on December 31, 2014. Bonebrake stated he is agreeable to filling this position now that he realizes this is not an additional position. Howard stated he is in agreement with filling this position, but doesn't want the Board to think that every time they save money, they can spend it. Kelly stated she did not support this position at budget time, and she is not supporting it now because she feels there is no need to fill the position since she was told Zybarth was already doing the Treasurer's duties prior to the election. On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board authorized the Treasurer to hire one additional Treasurer's Clerk III. Ayes: Howard, Sorensen, Sauer and Bonebrake. Nay: Kelly.

Discussion was held regarding a draft Amended 28E MUSCOM Agreement. Bonebrake presented a draft Amended 28E Agreement for review stating it is still a work in progress. Sorensen feels the MUSCOM Board has no funding authority or day-to-day supervision so maybe the agreement should be dissolved and the County should move forward with some other process on its own. Kelly stated the City of Muscatine might be agreeable to eliminating the MUSCOM Board if a City Councilmember and a member of the Board of Supervisors were added to the User Group to allow them to still have some oversight. Bonebrake does not believe the MUSCOM Board has to go away, if that is what it takes to keep the agreement with the City, but that Board does not have a need all the time and should not have day to day interaction with that department. Sauer stated the MUSCOM Board serves zero purpose and he does not see a need for both the MUSCOM Board and the Users Group. Sauer stated he is not sure how to resolve this with two groups in total disagreement on who does what, although adding a Supervisor and a Councilmember to the User Group might be a possibility. Howard stated the Board of Supervisors need to decide whether or not they want a 28E Agreement and, if so, then it should respond with a counter proposal. Howard stated he is upset with the power struggle going on and the fact the City does not feel they are fairly represented on the MUSCOM Board. Howard stated he feels the County should make changes to the drafted Amended 28E Agreement and send it back to the City. Howard stated if the City does not like the changes, the County can move forward on its own. Bonebrake agreed with Howard, but wants to point out that this has to do with public safety and he could care less who has more members and votes. Bonebrake feels like he has been wasting his time because most of what is in this proposal is not what he agreed to at the meeting. Bonebrake feels the County needs to move forward whether the City of Muscatine participates or not. Kelly stated if the County moves forward on its own, then the County would only bond for half the equipment and the City is not prepared to bond for their equipment at this point. Bonebrake stated then the City needs to get on board with the County. Sorensen and Bonebrake will collect Supervisors comments and redraft an Amended 28E Agreement to send back to the City Council negotiating team members.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Bonebrake, the Board approved renewal of an Iowa Retail Cigarette/Tobacco/Nicotine/Vapor Permit for Reif Oil Co., dba Stewart Road Fast Break, 2418 Stewart Road, Muscatine, IA 52761. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board approved renewal of an Iowa Retail Cigarette/Tobacco/Nicotine/Vapor Permit for Casey's Marketing Company, dba Casey's General Store #2472, 1334 Hwy 22, Nichols, IA 52766. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Bonebrake, the Board approved an Iowa Retail Cigarette/Tobacco/Nicotine/Vapor Permit for Bryan Thoma/Naughty Party, dba BT Convenience, 1961 Tombstone Trail, Montpelier, IA. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Howard, second by Bonebrake, minutes of the May 16, 2015 special meeting and May 18, 2015 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

No correspondence was noted.

Committee Reports:

Sauer attended a Muscatine County Conservation Board meeting May 18th.

Sauer attended a Riverbend Transit Board meeting May 20th.

Sauer attended a Muscatine Board of Health meeting May 20th.

Sauer attended a Muscatine County Fair Board meeting May 21st.

Kelly attended an Eastern Iowa Mental Health Regional meeting May 18th.

Kelly and Howard attended a Bi-State Regional meeting May 27th.

Kelly and Howard attended the Merrill Convention Center ceremony May 27th. Kelly attended the Y Awards ceremony May 19th. Bonebrake and Sorensen met with the City to negotiate an Amended MCJCC 28E Agreement May 26th.

Information Services Director Bill Riley updated the Board on help desk activity for the month of May. Riley stated a new web filter has been installed to allow more flexibility when conducting research on the internet.

On a motion by Howard, second by Sorensen, the Board accepted the May 2015 payroll claims. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board affirmed a grant application between the Iowa Department of Public Health and the Muscatine County Board of Health for Environmental Health Services. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board appointed Richard Buser to the Conesville Benefitted Fire District to fill a vacancy for a term ending December 31, 2016, subject to approval by the Louisa County Board of Supervisors. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Howard, the Board authorized the Chair to execute paperwork necessary to renew health and dental benefits with Wellmark, Inc. effective July 1, 2015. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Howard, the Board approved the proposed health and dental premiums effective July 1, 2015. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Howard, second by Sorensen, the Board set an annual enrollment period for health insurance and an open enrollment for dental insurance for June 2, 2015 through June 17, 2015. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Bonebrake, Supervisors Howard and Sauer were appointed to negotiate the County Engineer's contract.

Jim Hahn, 900 W. 4th Street, expressed concern rip rap is not being used on the levees by the new bridge on Burlington Road. Hahn stated the watershed that comes down with a 4 or 5 inch rainfall can cause havoc with the levees by that bridge. Hahn stated his lawyer has tried to contact the County Engineer and County Attorney about the issue, but received no response. County Engineer Keith White suggested the Board may want to schedule a visit to the site if they are concerned.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 A.M.

ATTEST:

Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

Kas Kelly, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors