

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, November 16, 2015

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

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

Vic Amoroso, A&J Associates, updated the Board on the completion of the Administration Building HVAC Upgrade Project. On a motion by Sorensen, second by Bonebrake, the Board accepted final completion of the Administration Building HVAC Upgrade Project and approved the final pay application in the amount of \$51,275.10.
Ayes: All.

Director of Emergency Communications and Emergency Management Matt Shook and Motorola Project Manager Nellys Flores updated the Board on the MUSCOM P25 Project. Shook stated the project is on budget and on schedule. Shook asked the Board for direction concerning some non-contract expenses. Shook stated the expenses are within the budget and gave the Board a detailed explanation of each cost estimate. Shook stated activation of the P25 system is planned for mid-January, barring any weather delays concerning the antenna array installation. Board consensus was to allow Shook to proceed with the non-contract expenses per the estimates listed on the report.

Community Services Director Mike Johannsen updated the Board on General Assistance, Veterans Affairs, Case Management and Mental Health Regionalization. Johannsen stated the General Assistance Budget is on schedule in all areas except funeral expenses. Johannsen stated funeral expenses for the first quarter are over budget.

Johannsen recommended the Board adopt a revised burial policy which funds cremation services and aligns closely to a change in state code which removes responsibility for burial from children and parents. On a motion by Sorensen, second by Bonebrake, the Board adopted a revised burial policy as presented. Ayes: All.

Veteran Affairs Director Jennifer Watkins-Schoenig updated the Board on the Veterans Affairs Assistance program.

Community Services Assistant Director Kathy Anderson-Noel updated the Board on the Case Management program. Anderson-Noel stated the Muscatine County program will change soon due to lack of state funding after December 31, 2015, but how it will change is still unfolding. Anderson-Noel stated the County is down to four full-time and one part-time Case Manager and herself. Each Case Manager is responsible for 45 cases which is the maximum number allowed by Iowa Code. Johannsen stated he hopes to come back to the Board in late December with a recommendation on how to proceed with case management at the County level.

Johannsen stated he and others from Muscatine County will be attending a meeting with state legislators on November 16th in Davenport to discuss funding for and implementation of Mental Health Regionalization.

On a motion by Howard, second by Sorensen, the Board approved the following utility permit: Kinder-Morgan Terminals – with aerial pipeline crossing Wiggins Road near the Monsanto Plant. Ayes: All.

County Engineer Keith White updated the Board on various projects. White stated there is no construction now, only maintenance, including culvert repair on Vail Avenue, work on the rail crossing approaches on Pettibone Avenue, and hauling sand for winter road conditions.

White reviewed the proposed Fleet Manager position and responded to questions from the Board. Both Sorensen and Sauer stated the person who does this job well will pay for his/her position right away, by freeing up management time for others to do the important work of designing roads and finding money for road projects.

Bonebrake stated concern the department is getting management heavy, while continuing to operate low on road-workers due to unfilled positions. Bonebrake stated he is not opposed to the position, he is just not sure the Board is ready to hire someone now.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer the Board approved a class specification and Grade-13 recommendation for a Secondary Roads Fleet Manager position. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, White was authorized to proceed with filling the Fleet Manager position. Ayes: Howard, Kelly, Sorensen, Sauer. Nay: Bonebrake.

Information Services Director Bill Riley was unavailable for the Board meeting.

On a motion by Howard, second by Sorensen, minutes of the Monday, November 9, 2015 regular meeting, the November 9, 2015 joint meeting with the Muscatine City Council and the November 10, 2015 special meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

No correspondence was noted.

Committee Reports:

Kelly attended the Seventh Judicial District meeting November 13th.

Kelly and Bonebrake attended the Mississippi Drive Corridor Stakeholders meeting on November 9th.

Kelly attended Veteran's Day presentations at the American Legion and VFW on November 11th.

Howard attended the Fruitland City Council Meeting on November 10th.

The Board recessed at 11:11 A.M. and reconvened at 11:18 A.M. for an in-depth review and discussion of County-owned property and buildings.

Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber stated other than County-owned FEMA property, Conservation Department property and property with buildings, there are only 12 to 18 slivers of land which were originally obtained for right-of way purposes. Schreiber stated according to state law those properties may be sold after first obtaining an appraisal and first offering to sell the property to the original owner, then the adjacent land owner.

Schreiber stated the County is unable to sell FEMA property, but may rent or lease it after each individual, signed lease agreement is approved by FEMA.

Board consensus was to request more specific information on County-owned property for a continuing in-depth discussion at the November 30th meeting. The Board directed Schreiber and Budget Administrator Sherry Seright to gather information including a list of buildings and square footage of each, descriptions of attached properties regarding properties with buildings, descriptions of improvements on each building and a detailed list of FEMA properties. In addition, Howard volunteered to contact local realtors handling commercial properties for feedback on potential real estate sales.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 A.M.

ATTEST:

Leslie A. Soule, Auditor

Kathy Kelly, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors