

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, October 14, 2019

The Muscatine County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 9:00 A.M. with Sauer, Mather, Sorensen and Saucedo present. Holliday was absent. Chairperson Mather presiding.

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

Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber stated Cyle Geertz will not be attending the Board meeting as indicated on the agenda and does not intend to pursue the investigation of Sheriff Ryan.

County Engineer Keith White presented the following bids for Saulsbury Flood Repairs (2019): Brauns Excavating, LLC - \$39,025.00; and Heuer Construction, Inc. - \$41,955.00. White stated there was another bid not opened as it was not received on time. On a motion by Sorensen, second by Saucedo, the Board accepted a bid for the 2019 Saulsbury Flood Repairs from Brauns Excavating, LLC in the amount of \$39,025.00. Ayes: All.

White updated the Board on secondary road projects.

Discussion was held regarding a request for the first-half FY19/20 transfer payment (\$155,638.00) to the Eastern Iowa Mental Health/Disability Services Region. Scott County Budget Director David Farmer, acting as fiscal agent for the Region, presented information regarding the history and funding of the Eastern Iowa Mental Health/Disability Services Region since its formation July 1, 2014 by Cedar, Clinton, Jackson, Muscatine and Scott Counties. Farmer stated Section 7.1 of the 28E Agreement says revenues in excess of a county's projected service and required fund balance levels shall be deposited into a Regional Pool Account. Farmer stated no percentage of fund balance was mentioned in that section and have historically been taken from stated code which has varied over the years from 20% - 40%. Farmer stated \$9,200,000 is the current maximum levy for the Region. For FY19, the Region spent \$12,861,353 which includes \$1,300,000 in one-time funding. Farmer stated the increase from 20% by FY2020 to 40% fund balance cap was not passed by the legislature until after the FY20 Region Budget was approved which was based on the 20% cap. Farmer stated the FY20 budget included transfer dollars would be needed from each county to pay for crisis services and administrative costs. Farmer stated when the FY20 Region Budget was approved the Region was on target for a 25% fund balance, but after the FY20 Region Budget was amended the Region was on target for a 32% fund balance. Farmer stated actual expenditures as of last Friday suggest a \$1,930,978 (17%) fund balance is more likely. Mather stated if Muscatine County makes the transfer, the fund balance forecasted at \$127,450 only covers one month of expenditures. Mather stated since Muscatine County needs to cover three months of expenses at the beginning of FY21, it will have to reach out to the fiscal agent fund which will already be negative, so Muscatine County will have to rely on the other counties to pick up the difference. Mather stated between the shortage for Muscatine and Clinton Counties fund balances and the Fiscal Agent projected negative fund balance, the Region would need approximately \$750,000 from the other counties in the Region to be able to cover the first three months of FY21. Farmer stated the legislature needs to reevaluate the maximum levy cap. Farmer stated the cap for the Eastern Iowa Mental Health/Disability Services Region is the lowest of all

of the regions at \$30.78 which generates \$9,200,000 and the region has never had expenses below \$9,200,000. Farmer stated legislation continues to add unfunded mandates and has not addressed the long term funding solutions needed. Jackson County Community Services Director Lynn Bopes stated if there is no change in legislation, discretionary services such as sheltered workshops, residential care facilities and guardianship or conservatorship programs, which are not required to be funded may have to be looked at for additional savings. Farmer stated if the maximum levy cap was changed by the legislature, he would like to see it increased to around \$40.00. Dennis Duke, President of the Robert Young Center, stated since 2014, there is no longer an institutional level of care that is sufficient to meet the needs of all the Regions in Iowa. Duke stated the legislature needs to raise the maximum levy cap and there also needs to be more consideration about the system that was once in place. Duke stated we cannot move forward with a children's mental health system without the funding to allow for financial sustainability. Due to the wealth of information presented, Mather postponed decision until a later Board meeting.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Saucedo, the Board approved the Muscatine County Recorder's Report of Fees Collected for the quarter ending September 30, 2019 in the amount of \$63,105.84. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Sorensen, minutes of the October 7, 2019 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

Saucedo attended an MPW Ribbon Cutting October 8th.

Sorensen and Mather reported several contacts regarding the potential MP&W high voltage line.

Sauer reported a contact regarding a possible policy regarding the operation of four wheelers on gravel roads.

Sauer reported a contact regarding the amount of vegetation overhanging and encroaching Sweetland Road off Highway 22.

Committee Reports:

Sauer attended a Riverbend Transit Employee Appreciation Dinner October 12th.

Mather attended a Seventh Judicial District meeting October 11th.

Sorensen attended a Regional Workforce Investment Board Training Session September 30th.

Sorensen attended a Levee Stakeholders meeting October 9th.

Sorensen attended a MUSCOM meeting October 10th.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Saucedo, the Board approved the hiring of Brandon Hatcher as Building, Zoning and Environmental Inspector at \$54,540 (Grade 12, Step 8) for the Zoning/Environmental Services Office. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Saucedo, Brandy Olson was appointed to fill a Muscatine County Board of Health vacancy for a term ending December 31, 2021. Ayes: All.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:41 A.M.

ATTEST:

Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

Nathan Mather, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors