

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, October 21, 2019

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

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

On a motion by Sauer, second by Sorensen, claims dated October 21, 2019 were approved in the amount of \$3,004,386.88. Ayes: All.

Muscatine County Fair Manager Kelsey Morris introduced herself to the Board.

Discussion was held regarding continued participation in the Eastern Iowa Mental Health/Disability Services Region. Community Services Director Felicia Toppert distributed an updated Region fund balance provided by the Region Fiscal Agent and Scott County Budget Director David Farmer that reflected a lower expenditure estimate for Muscatine County resulting in an increased projected fund balance for Muscatine County of \$161,061. Sorensen stated it does not make any sense for the numbers to change so much over a two week span. Toppert stated the Region is working its way to insolvency regardless of whether Muscatine County holds off until the beginning of the 4th quarter of FY2020 on consideration of a requested transfer to the Region in order to see where the Region funding stands at that time. In response to a question from Sorensen, Toppert stated all she has seen with the Region is inputs or number of consumers, but she has never seen outcomes from the Region. Toppert explained participants in the County's Trust Program have never experienced a major crisis with the County acting as their guardian. Mather stated the CEO of the Region suggested Muscatine County pay for the trust program out of the County's general fund and he does not agree. Mather stated he met with the CEO and Chairperson of the Region and they discovered some irregularities in the billing with one provider. Mather stated the provider was charging for both the service and the time to perform the service. Mather stated the Region has not paid the bills and the provider has agreed to revise their invoices. Toppert explained the process for leaving the Eastern Iowa Region requires a Notice of Intent to Leave the Region as of July 1, 2020 be submitted to the Region by November 15, 2019. Toppert stated she has talked to the CEO of the SEAL Region about the possibility of joining their Region and they were interested in adding Muscatine County. Toppert stated the SEAL Region does not spend beyond their means and are much further along with setting up the Children's Mental Health System than the Eastern Iowa Region. Toppert stated application to join the SEAL Region as of July 1, 2020 would have to be submitted to that Region by November 13, 2019. Mather stated Scott County had the opportunity to increase their levy to \$30.78 in FY18 and FY19, but did not. Mather stated FY20 is the first year that Scott County levied \$30.78. Mather stated if all Counties levy \$30.78, the revenue is \$9,900,000, but expenditures are still over \$12,000,000. Toppert stated the SEAL Region does not contract out management services and she has suggestions for the Eastern Iowa Region how to unload management fees from Robert Young. Sorensen stated he is beyond upset about fiscal management in the Eastern Iowa Region. Mather stated Scott County is well below per capita contributions from the other Counties. Saucedo stated he is more interested in looking into the advantages of moving to the SEAL Region. Toppert stated Muscatine County would have the ability to levy up to \$42.38 to be in the SEAL Region. Toppert stated the SEAL

Region only employs a Director and Assistant, so if Muscatine County wants to keep the trust services, it would have to absorb those employees through the General Fund, but would probably have to do that anyway even with the Eastern Iowa Region. Board consensus was to look into the governance and services of the SEAL Region before making a decision by November 4, 2019. Nancy Nauman, Regional Director Optima Life Services, stated Muscatine County has been a leader for over 40 years in Mental Health Services including the Trust Program. Nauman stated the Trust Program goes all the way back to the time of Kenny Duncan who felt if the County could help client manage their own money, then the client does not become the responsibility of the County. Nauman stated she is concerned with the Regional cuts being announced as clients will lose their services and no longer be able to stay in their homes.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Saucedo, the Board approved 2019 Business Property Tax Credit applications, with the exception of 2 applications on two parcels, as recommended by the Auditor's Office. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Sorensen, minutes of the October 14, 2019 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

Saucedo and Holliday reported a contact inquiring about flags put out on Jasper Avenue. All Supervisors reported contact by a transmission line opposition group regarding the proposed MP&W high voltage line. Saucedo attended a Muscatine Fire Department Open House October 20th. Sorensen met with Hickory Hills concerning a water line on G28. Holliday reported a contact regarding a mud spot on Iron City Avenue.

Committee Reports:

Holliday attended a Muscatine County Fair Board meeting October 7th. Holiday attended a Greater Muscatine Foundation meeting October 8th. Holiday attended a Wilton Development Corporation meeting October 16th. Sauer and Sorensen attended a MAGIC meeting October 14th. Sauer attended a Riverbend Transit meeting October 16th. Mather met with the Eastern Iowa Mental Health/Disability Services Region CEO and Chairperson October 18th. All Supervisors met for an exit interview with State Auditors October 16th.

Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber updated the Board on upcoming Board and Commission openings.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:13 A.M.

ATTEST:

Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

Nathan Mather, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors