

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors  
Monday, December 16, 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.

Jim Meredith, 1986 Bayfield Road, thanked Scott Sauer for helping Denny Conway with an ownership issue. Sauer stated he was glad he was able to help and thanked the Engineer's office for the work they did to clarify the ownership of the lane on Denny's parcel. Meredith stated his ditch problem still has not been addressed. Sorensen stated the Board will discuss it when they do their five-year plan with the County Engineer.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, claims dated December 16, 2019 were approved in the amount of \$329,010.31. Ayes: All.

Discussion was held with Mike Nolan, Horizon Architecture, regarding a Scope and Fee Proposal for the domestic hot water systems at the Muscatine County Jail. Nolan stated the old system will be evaluated and redesigned and new local hot water heating systems will be designed to serve specific areas of the Jail. Nolan stated electrical design will also be conducted for new electric/boiler type heaters with battery backup. On a motion by Sorensen, second by Saucedo, the Board accepted a Scope and Fee Proposal from Axiom Consultants in the amount of \$9,500 for the domestic hot water systems at the Muscatine County Jail. Ayes: All.

Discussion was held with Nolan regarding a change order for the Muscatine Maintenance Facility Project. Nolan stated the change order was necessary to install 80' of 2" hdpe water pipe from the valve to a valve on the eastside of the building to service an irrigation system adjacent to the green space. On a motion by Saucedo, second by Sauer, the Board affirmed a change order for the Muscatine Maintenance Facility Project from Swanson Construction Co. in the amount of \$1,966.84. Ayes: All.

Nolan updated the Board on the progress with the Muscatine County Maintenance Facility Project.

County Engineer Keith White presented bids for the purchase of three ½ Ton 4WD Pickups as follows: Kreigers GMC – \$77,050 (\$107,550 less trade-in of \$30,500.00); Kreigers Chevrolet – \$78,367 (\$108,867 less trade-in of \$30,500.00). On a motion by Sorensen, second by Saucedo, the Board approved the purchase of three ½ Ton 4WD Pickups from Kreigers GMC in the amount of \$77,050.00. Ayes: All.

White discussed an upcoming change on how DOT contracts are approved.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Holliday, the Board authorized the Chairperson to sign Statement of Election Costs for the November 5, 2019 Muscatine City-School Elections. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Sorensen, minutes of the December 9, 2019 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

Sorensen calls about new maintenance building

Mather reported several conversation about mental health issues.

Mather and Felicia Toppert held a conference call December 13<sup>th</sup> with Julie Jetter, DHS.

Jetter expressed her opinion from the Code of Iowa that the County cannot spending any dollars out of Fund 10 if they are not in a Region.

Mather received an email from the Eastern Iowa Mental Health Region CEO Lori Elam referencing Region cuts made in September and stating additional cuts would still need to be made.

Committee Reports:

Holliday and Sorensen attended a MUSCOM meeting December 12<sup>th</sup>.

Mather attended an Eastern Iowa Mental Health Region steering committee meeting December 11<sup>th</sup>.

Sorensen and Saucedo attended the SEIL Region meeting December 11<sup>th</sup>.

Saucedo attended a West Liberty Economic Area Development (WeLead) meeting December 13<sup>th</sup>.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Saucedo, the Board authorized the Chairperson to sign the Certification Statement for the Muscatine County FY2019 Muscatine County Cost Allocation Plan. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board adopted a revised Procurement Policy for Federal Grant Awards: Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board accepted the November 2019 payroll claims. Ayes: All.

The Board recessed at 9:33 A.M. and reconvened at 9:40 A.M. to hold a work session to discuss mental health funding/membership in a Region. Toppert stated if Department of Human Services Representative Julie Jetter's interpretation stands, then if Muscatine County is kicked out of the Eastern Iowa Region, we would not be able to pay any of the services that come out of Fund 10. Toppert presented a cost estimate of \$641,557 (annualized) from Robert Young for crisis services for Muscatine County. Sorensen stated in the South Eastern Iowa Link Region (SEIL), each CPC is paid for out of each County's Fund 10, then the Region employee is paid a stipend and the Fiscal Agent gets allocated through cost allocation and runs about \$25,000. Sorensen stated he would want an iron clad assurance that residents would not see a reduction of services before he agreed to send a payment to the Eastern Iowa Region. Mather stated we cannot put ourselves into the position that we do not have the funds to pay for services for our residents. Mather stated he thinks the County needs to wait to pay the \$311,000 at the end of the fiscal year if we have the funding. Mather stated Lori Elam, Scott County, told him Scott County does not want to leave us without an ability to provide services and would work with Muscatine County, but the Region needs to know our answer to determine cuts. County Attorney Alan Ostergren stated the Board needs to do

what they think is proper and the Board is balancing a series of unappealing options, but with the goal of providing mental health services with dollars that were levied to taxpayers to pay for those services so he is not worried about their way of doing that. Toppert stated there is nothing in our request to leave the Region that stated we wanted to leave the Region early. Toppert stated the decision to be made is whether or not we pay to avoid being rejected or not pay and run the risk of rejection. Ostergren stated the County does not have a lot of redress with the Region if it makes the payment and the Region cannot provide the services. Mather stated Fiscal Agent David Farmer told him that Scott County does have the capacity to write a check to cover their deficit. Saucedo asked if the County has the funds to survive if it is kicked out of the Region. Budget Administrator Sherry Seright stated Muscatine County currently only has two users, but the Region says Muscatine County spends over \$600,000. Mather stated he has an issue with the Region wanting to kick us out for \$155,000 shortfall when Scott County owes the Region 1.5 million dollars. Toppert stated there is no way to know how much it would cost us to keep going on our own. Seright stated the County has been pre-paying for services that we just started getting in September. Saucedo stated he feels the County should send a letter to the Eastern Iowa Region that says we paid millions of dollars to stay in this Region until June 30, 2020. Sorensen stated it would be best for our residents to hold the \$155,000 in case we wind up in a situation where we have to pay for our own services. Mather stated since the Region is meeting today, he will have to give them a synopsis of what the Board decides today at the Region meeting, but could follow up with the letter later. Sorensen stated the County should send a letter that we are not paying at this time and highlighting the reasons why, but that we will would consider paying the \$311,000 at the end of the year if we have funds available. Mather summarized that he will tell the Region the following: The County has paid for services that the Region owes us to the tune of \$881,000; the County does not have the money to make the requested installment at this time; paying now would jeopardize services to our residents; the County has been told that if we are outside of a Region, we cannot spend any of our money on services; the County's intent is and has been to withdraw on June 30<sup>th</sup>; and at that time the County will assess its fund balance with the intent to transfer any excess balance to the Region. On a motion by Sorensen, second by Saucedo, the Board deferred determination of the amount of the transfer payment to the Eastern Iowa Mental Health/Disability Services Region to on or about May 11, 2020. Ayes: All.

The meeting adjourned at 10:39 A.M.

ATTEST:

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Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

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Nathan Mather, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors