

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, September 30, 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.

Cyle Geertz, 416 Ijem Avenue, Nichols, IA asked what the Board's next step would be regarding Sheriff Ryan. Geertz stated he considered the County Attorney's internal investigation not an acceptable investigation. Chairperson Mather stated the County Attorney found no wrong doing on the part of the County Sheriff. Mather stated the Board is not empowered to do anything more.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Saucedo, the Chairperson was authorized to execute a DPS/Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau Grant Contract in the amount of \$38,900.00. Ayes: All.

Discussion was held with Mike Nolan, Horizon Architecture regarding change orders from Wolf Construction for the Muscatine County Third Floor Courtroom Renovation Project. Nolan presented the following change orders from Wolfe Contracting, Inc.: CAR #7 for lighting changes in the Foyer and Jury Room in the amount of \$6,532.00; CAR #8 to raise the handrail on the 2nd floor to match the handrail on the 3rd floor for safety reasons in the amount of \$5,105.00; and CAR #9 to add solid surface tops to 16 window seals in the amount of \$6,951.75. Saucedo stated he would like to see more detail regarding labor and materials on change orders over \$10,000 in order to be able to better identify what the Board is approving. On a motion by Saucedo, second by Sauer, the Board approved CAR #7 - \$6,532.00; CAR #8 - \$5,105.00 and CAR #9 - \$6,951.75 for the Muscatine County Courthouse Third Floor Courtroom Renovation Project. Ayes: All.

Nolan reviewed the final cost tabulation for the Muscatine County Courthouse Third Floor Courtroom Renovation Project in the amount of \$1,038,000. Nolan stated there was a 20% contingency fund which was underspent by \$55,176. Nolan stated funding for the project was provided as follows: Historic Tax Credits - \$357,886; Excess General Fund - \$630,114; and Debt Issue - \$50,000.

Discussion was held with Nolan regarding schematic design and management of the replacement of the EPDM roof on the Muscatine County Jail. On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board accepted Service Order 19-003 for the Muscatine County Jail Partial Roof Replacement Project in the amount of \$37,500. Ayes: All.

Discussion was held with Nolan regarding schematic design and probable cost for the Muscatine County Sheriff's Office Addition. Nolan stated the project would be done in two phases with the Phase 1 remodeling the current facility to include more evidence storage and Phase 2 constructing an addition to the facility with garages to hold Sheriff's Office boats and vehicles. Nolan provided designs and probable costs as follows: Phase 1 - \$270,979.67; and Phase 2 - \$223,626.96. Nolan stated the City does not want to allow another driveway entering the road for

the garage addition. The Board felt another conversation should be held with the City regarding another driveway entrance. Nolan stated whether to do both phases at the same time or not will be decided at a later date dependent on funding considerations. The Board directed Nolan to proceed with the project.

Discussion was held with Community Services Director/Disability Services Coordinator Felicia Toppert regarding funding reduction decisions made by the Eastern Iowa MH/DS Region at their meeting held on September 23, 2019. Toppert stated the Region acted to cut programs that had not been implemented or utilized, training that could be delayed, a cut to bridge appointments which allow consumers immediate access to a doctor, and the cutting of a Social Worker from Jackson County for which the Muscatine County Social worker will now be shared between the two counties. Toppert stated these regional crisis services cuts amounted to approximately \$324,234. Toppert stated other cuts are as follows: a cut of \$200,000 due to Vera French accepting a lower rate in Scott County; a \$281,025 cut of the Vera French Drop-In Center although now MCSA has a Drop-In Center; and a \$250,000 cut to sheltered workshops which means Crossroads will take a substantial financial hit. Toppert stated our region is the only region funding sheltered workshops over the last two years. Toppert stated the sheltered workshops need to move consumers to supported employment. Toppert stated no sheltered workshops will have funding from the Region effective FY2021. Toppert stated Crossroads had not spent their one time grant, so the Region took that money back that was not spent. Toppert stated Goodwill provides supported employment and is willing to take on or mentor consumers from Crossroads. Toppert stated HON uses Crossroads and could start an enclave which is paid for by Medicaid to utilize those consumers. Toppert stated there is a moratorium on funding of any new sheltered workshop clients and any new referrals for transportation or community support programs. Toppert stated Community Services has been looking at every client that they serve to evaluate if they are getting the services they need from the County. Toppert stated the Guardianship/Conservatorship Payee program does more to keep people stable than any other program she has seen. Toppert stated budget projections show if we turn over \$311,000 to the Region then Muscatine County will only have a \$58,670 fund balance remaining. Toppert stated if Muscatine County puts the money back in to the Region, then the County will not be able to get it out again. Mather stated he has told the Region not to count on that money. Mather stated the prevailing attitude at the Region is that the legislature will come to the rescue with a last minute change, but he does not agree. Board consensus was to not turn over \$311,000 to the Region.

MCSA Executive Director Scott Dahlke presented the Board with information regarding the new Mental Health Peer Drop-In Center at the Muscatine Center for Social Action. Dahlke stated 20% of those serviced by MCSA return due to a chronic mental health situation. Dahlke stated the Peer Drop-In Center is a cool, yet inviting space, for these individuals to socialize with others under the same circumstances. Dahlke introduced Chris Anderson who has struggled with mental health issues, was homeless at one time, received services from both the Robert Young Center and MCSA and has overcome his issues. Anderson stated he created several paintings which were auctioned off at the MCSA Peer Drop-In Center Grand Opening and he has started Paint the Pearl to beautify downtown Muscatine with his murals.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Saucedo, the Board approved the following utility permits for Eastern Iowa Light and Power: Installation of new poles and boring beneath Hampton Road (X43) to replace poles struck by lightning; placement of a new tie line along bike path between Solomon Avenue and University Avenue; replacement of exposed cable in the creek on 231st Street (G28); and boring North beneath Bayfield Road to a new pedestal on Spies property. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Sorensen, the Board approved the following utility permits for Muscatine Power and Water: replacement of overhead communication lines with underground fiber on 57th Street South from Stewart Road West 1825 feet; and replacement of overhead electric lines with underground lines on 57th Street South from Stewart Road West 1825 feet. Ayes: All.

County Engineer Keith White updated the Board on secondary road projects.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Saucedo, minutes of the September 23, 2019 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

Saucedo reported a call regarding the water main servicing Hickory Hills Subdivision.

Sorensen, Mather and Holliday reported multiple contacts regarding proposed high voltage

power lines on Mulberry Avenue, Bayfield Road, North Tipton Road and 180th Street to service a substation. Planning and Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas stated Muscatine Power and Water is trying to setup a fail-safe to protect against a tornado or windstorm taking down their entire operation. Furnas stated they plan to construct the power lines on private property along the route.

Committee Reports:

Mather attended an Eastern Iowa Mental Health Region meeting September 23rd.

Sorensen attended a Bi-State Regional Commission meeting September 25th.

Saucedo attended a West Liberty Economic Area Development (WeLead) meeting September 26th.

Mather and Saucedo attended the Grand Opening of the Mental Health Peer Drop-In Center at the Muscatine Center for Social Action on September 26th.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Saucedo, the Chairperson was authorized to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with AFSCME/Iowa Council 61 to allow the County to fill the Jail Bookkeeper position at a higher step than allowed under the current union contract and the Board approved the hiring of Tara Hogan as Bookkeeper at \$19.08 per hour (Union-Step 5) for the Sheriff's Office/Jail. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Saucedo, the Board authorized the Chairperson to execute the FY 19/20 Iowa/Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program Contract in the amount of \$35,253.00. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Sorensen, the Board authorized the Chairperson to execute the FY 19/20 Methamphetamine Drug Hot Spots Grant Program Contract in the amount of \$9,000.00. Ayes: All.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:19 A.M.

ATTEST:

Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

Nathan Mather, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors